

PERIMEDES  
The Blacke-Smith,

A golden methode, how to vse  
*the minde in pleasant and pro-  
fitable exercise:*

*Whercin is contained speciall principles fit for the  
highest to imitate, and the meanest to put in practise,  
how best to spend the wearie winters nights, or the  
longest summers Euenings, in honest  
and delightfull recreation:*

Wherein we may learne to auoide idlenesse and wan-  
*ton scurrilitie, vvhich diuers appoint as the end  
of their pastimes.*

*Heerein are interlaced three mervie and necessarie  
discourses fit for our time : with certaine  
pleasant Histories and tragicall tales, which  
may breed delight to all, and offence  
to none.*

*Omne tulit punctum, qui miscuit utile dulci.*



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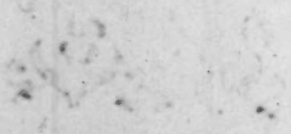
THE BOSTON SMITH

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To the Right worship, *Geruis Clifton*  
Esquire, *Robert Greene* wisheth increate of  
worship and Vertue.

 O sooner, Right worshipfull, was Alexander come to ripe yeares, but his father Philip presented him a booke and a horse; the one, to signifie his delight in letters; the other, his desire to martiall indeuours: Pallas had hir speare, and hir pen; counted as well the patronesse of schollers, as of souldiers: And Alexander forenamed, no sooner laide off his helmet, but hee tooke in hand Homers Iliades; scarce come from handling his weapon with his maister Parmenio, but he fell to parlee of studie with his Tutor Aristotle; counting the profit that hee reaped by philosophie, litle lesse then the gaines he got by his great conquest. These premises considered, hearing how your worship in the prime of your youth; not onely delighted in martiall actiuitie, but fauored the study of good letters, as a Mæcenas and patron of such vertuous labours, I resolved, if I could not hang at the shryne of Apollo beautifull instruments, yet to deck his aulters with Bay garlands: and if my want hindred me from offering to Minerua great volumes, yet I aduentured to strew

## *The Epistle Dedicatorie.*

her temple with loose papers, though my abilitie was not sufficient to present your worship with any worke worth the viewing, yet I presumed as spurred forward by the report of your courtesie, and fame of yout vertues, to dedicate this little pamphlet to your worship, conteyning the tattle betweene a Smith and his wife, full of diuerse precepts interlaced with delightfull histories, which if they profit some, and please others, let them returne the end of both to your worship, for whome this worke was first taken in hand: but howsoeuer it delights or discontents, so it fit your humour, and passe with your gracious acceptance, I shall hit the marke I aimed at, and so least I should shape Hercules shoo for a childs foote, I commit your worship to the  
Almightie.

Your worships to command,  
Robert Greene.







## To the Gentlemen readers, *Health.*



Entlemen I dare not step awrye from my wonted method, first to appeale to your fauorable courtesies, which euer I haue found (howsoever plawfible) yet smothered with a milde silence: the small pamphlets that I haue thrust forth how you haue regarded them I know not, but that they haue been badly rewarded with any ill tearmes I neuer found, which makes me the more bold to trouble you, and the more bound to rest yours euery waie, as euer I haue done: I keepe my old course, to palter vp some thing in Prose, vsing mine old poesie still, *Omne tulit punctum*, although latelye two Gentlemen Poets, made two mad men of Rome beate it out of their paper bucklers: & had it in derision, for that I could not make my verses iet vpon the stage in tragicall buskins, euerie worde filling the mouth like the faburden of Bo-Bell, daring God out of heauen with that Atheist. *Tamburlan*, or blaspheming with the mad preest of the sonne: but let me rather openly pocket vp the Assie at *Diogenes* hand: then wantonlye set out such impious instances of intollerable poetrie, such mad and scoffing poets, that haue propheticall spirits as bred of *Merlins* race, if there be anye in England that set

*To the Reader.*

the end of scollarisme in an English blanck verse, I thinke  
either it is the humor of a nouice that tickles them with  
selfe-loue, or to much frequenting the hot house (to vse  
the Germaine prouerbe) hath swet out all the greatest  
part of their wits, which waists *Gradatim*, as the Italians  
say *Poco à poco*. If I speake darkely Gentlemen, and of-  
fend with this digression, I craue pardon, in that I but  
answere in print, what they haue offered on the Stage:  
but leauing these phantasticall schoollers, as iudging him  
that is not able to make choice of his chaffer, but a ped-  
ling chapman, at last to *Perymedes the Black Smith*, who  
sitting in his holi-dai-sute, to enter parlee with his wif,  
smugd vp in her best apparrell, I present to your fauors.  
If he please, I haue my desire, if he but passe I shal be glad.

If neither, I vowe to make amends in my *Oepharion*,  
which I promise to make you merry with the  
next tearme: And thus resting on your  
wonted courtesies, I bid you  
farewell.

*Yours as euer he hath beene,*  
R. Greene.







Au R. Greene Gentilhōme,  
Sonnet.

**E** Vphues qui a bien connu fils-aisné d'Eloquence,  
Son propre frere puisné te pourroit reconnoistre  
Par tes beaux escrits, G R E E N E, tu fais apparostre  
Que de la docte Sœur tu as pris ta naissance.  
Marot & de-Mornay pour le langage Francois :  
Pour l'Espagnol Gueuare, Boccace pour le Toscan :  
Et le gentil Sleidan refait l'Allemand :  
G R E E N E & Lylli tous deux raffineurs de l'Anglois.  
G R E E N E a son Mareschal monstrent son arte diuine,  
Moulé d'une belle Idée : sa plume essorée  
Vole viste & haute en parole empennée ;  
Son stile d'un beau discours portant la vraie mine.  
Courage, donc ie-dis, mon amy G R E E N E, courage,  
Mesprise des chiens, corbeaux & chathuans la rage :  
Et (glorieux) endure leur malignante furie.  
Zoyle arriere, arriere Momus chien enragé,  
Furieux mastin hurlant au croissant argenté,  
A G R E E N E iamaïs nuyre sauroit ta calomnie.

I. Eliote.

THE

AMERICAN

REVIEW

OF

THE

ARTS

AND

SCIENCE

OF

THE

UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

AND

THE

WEST INDIES

AND

THE

WESTERN ISLANDS

OF THE

ATLANTIC OCEAN

AND





## Perymedes.



Here dwelled, as the Annuall records of Egypt makes mention, in the Citie of Memphis, a poore man called Perymedes, whome fortune enuying from his infancie, had so thwarted with contrarie constellation, that although hee had but his wyfe and him selfe to releue by his manuell labours, yet want had so wrong him by the finger, that ofte the greatest chere they had, was hungar, and their sweetest sauce content: yet fame willing to supplie what fortune had faulted with defect, so rewarded poore Perymedes with the glozie of report, that he was not onely loued and liked of all his neighbours, but knowen for his contented pouertie thzough all the Confinnes of Egypt. The man coneting although hee were poore, to be counted vertuous, first eschewed idlenesse, the moath that sozest and soonest infecteth the mynde with many mischiefs, and applied him selfe so to his woorkes, being a Smith, that he thought no victualles to haue their taste which were not purchased by his own sweate. Proud he was not, as one whome pouertie had checked with to great disgrace, and yet we see that selfe loue hanges in the heart not in the habite, that Plato durst say (Calco fastidium-Diogenis) meaning that the poore Cynick was as insolent in his patcht cloake, as Alexander the great in all his royaltie. Enuie, of all other bites hee did escheue, as a canker so pestilent to an honest minde, that it suffereth quiet not so much as to pry into the motions of the heart. Couetous he was not, as one that sought by his handes thurst to satisfie his owne necessitie: and if any surplussage were graunted by good lucke, hee slept not soundly on saturday at night, till he his wyfe and his neighbours had me-

*Perymedes the*

rilie and honestlie spent it at a homelie banquet. He wanted nothing, as one that against all spight of Fortune opposed patience, and against necessitie content: And yet Fortune that she might not be thought to iniurious, in lieu of all her other disfauours lent him a wife of his owne conditions, whome he loued more then himselfe, for the poore woman although she was barren and had no children, yet was she of a verie pure and perfect complexion, and withall of such good behauiour, first in loue and dutie to her husband, and then in friendly and familiar conuersation with her neighbours, that shee was thought a wife fit for so honest a husband. These two thus beloued of all the inhabitants of Memphis, prescribed them selues such an order of life, as diuerse men of great calling, sought to be carefull imitators of their methode: for suffering no priuate iarres to come within their poore cottage, as a thing most preiudiciall to an Deconomicall estate, no sooner had these two past away the day, he at his hammers, and she at the Bellows, for boy they had none, but that sitting them selues to supper, they satisfied nature with that their labour did get, and their calling allow, and no sooner had they taken their repast, but to passe the rest of the euening merely they fell to pleasant chatte betwene them selues, sometime discoursing of what came first in their heads, with Pro & contra, as their naturall logick would graunt them leaue, other while with merie tales, honest, and tending to some good end without either lasciuiousnesse or scurilitie, thus euer they passed away the night: and for that the Egyptians, as a great monument kept diuerse of their discouries, which some by chance had ouerheard, and put downe as a Jewell in their librarie,

I meane as their recordes doe rehearse, to set downe in briefest two of their nightspattle, which although homely tolde, yet being honest and pleasant, I thought they would breade some conceived delight to the hearers, and therefore thus.



*The first nightes discourse.*



**N**o sooner had Perymedes and his wyfe Delia, for so was her name, ended their dayes worke, and taken their repast, but sitting safely in their simple cottage by a little fire. Perymedes began thus solemnly and sadlie to enter into a discourse, I can not thinke wise, but if we measure all our actions with a true proportion, that we haue suppt as daintely as the proudest in all the Cittie of Memphis, for the ende of delicates is but to satisfie nature, which is so partiall in hir desires, that were not our vitious mindes drowned in gluttonie, content would seale by hir request with a very small pittance, but such is the course of the world now a daies, that euerie man seekes with Philoxenus to haue his necke as long as a Crane, that he may with moze pleasure swill in the swete tast of their superfluous deinties. But wise, since I can remember here in Memphis, Psamnetichus our king, was of so sparing a diet, that being demaunded by an Ambassadour, what Caters he had for his household, made answer, his Cooke and his stomake: in seeming by this that his Cooke bought no more in the Chambers than would satisfie what his stomack desired. But now wise, euery meane man must be so curious in his fare, that we are rather to be counted Epicurians than Egyptians, and our Chaldees haue moze skill in a cup of wine than in a Librarie, which superfluitie bredeth both beggerie to manie, and diseases to all. For so they drowne them selues in the bottomlesse sea of gluttonie, as at last they make their bodies a subiect for the Physitian, thinking that the temperature of their complexions can neuer be well affected, vnlesse their stomacks bee made a verie Apotecaries shoppe, by receiuing a multitude of simples and drugges, so to settle their wauering constitution: those men that wed them selues to such inordinate excesse, finde diuerse and sondrie passions to torment the stomack and all the body, which no sooner paynes them, but straight, as experience is a great mistresse, they calculate the nature of the disease, and straight flye to purging, to phlebotomie, to fomentacions, & such medicinall decretals, according to the interior or exte-  
riour

### *Perymedes the*

riour nature of the disease, where as perhaps some slender fault is the efficient cause of such a momentarie passion, better to be cured by time than physick. But excesse in diet (wise) breedeth this restless desire, and so manie are the diseases incident by our owne superfluities, that enerie one had neede to haue an Verball tied at his girdle: well I haue heard my father say, that he was but one daie sicke in all his life time, being then also through ouer much labour fallen into a feauer. And this perfect temperature of the bodie, did not proceede from the diuersities of potions and daintie delicates, but by a true proportion of exercise and diet: which Zeno the Philosopher noted well to be true, who beeing of a verie weake and tender constitution, subiect oft to sicknesse, yet neuer kept his bed. Being demaunded of a Lacedemonian, what preseruatiues he did vse, Zeno willing to be brieue in his answers, shewed then a peece of bread & a dish of water, with a strong bolue of Steele, meaning by this Enigma to discouer vnto them, that he rased out his diseases by exercise and fasting, as two especiall pointes necessarie for the perfecting of mans health.

You say truth husband, quoth Delia, for oft haue I heard my mother say, that three thinges are the chiefeest delicates, which who so vseth, shall liue long and happely: Hunger, quiet, and mirth, but to auer your sayings to be true, enerie one seekes to attaine the contrarie, which causeth such sodaine death & perillous diseases: mo perish by gluttonie than by the sword, for in steade of hunger men seek to satiffie nature with excesse, for quiet, ennie at others happinelle, presentes a stratageme, for mirth melancholie, and conetous humours, how most greedily to gaine, thus enerie one seekes that time and experience proues most prciudiciall, but the time hath bene, yea Perymedes, and within my remembrance, when the inhabitantes of Memphis knewe not what ryot and ill diet ment, but enery man applying him selfe to frugalitie, conected to be thought honest and vertuous, where as now a daies the meanest doth desire to be thought proud and sumptuous. While Numa Pompilius banished excesse out of Rome, there was no drugges brought to the cittie from Africa: while Romulus drunke no wine, excesse was not noted amongst



## Black Smith.

amongst his subiects, neither had a Physician any palme in his dominions, till his successors Caligula, Nero, and the rest assigned Trophees, and Triumphs, for such as best could play the part of Epicures: and because my good Perymedes we be set alone by the fire, (and with this she rechte him a friendlie Bezo les labros) and none here but our selues, thou shalt see what long I haue kept close in my chest, certaine precepts of physick that long since were giuen by one of the Chaldees to Pharao the last king of Memphis, of that Aurname, which for that they were pretious, as wel for the doctrine as the methode, I haue kept them as deere as I did my virginittie before I met thee, and with that she bried her to her hutch, where she set out an olde peece of parchment, where was written as followeth.

*Certaine preceptes of household physick, giuen by Rabby Bendezzar, one of the Chaldees, to Pharao the king of Memphis.*

**C**onsidering right mightie soueraigne, that dutie breeketh not exceptions of time, but that the reuerent seruice of an honest minde is tied to his Lord, as carefully in sicknesse as in health: although want, the enemy to desire, hath not stored my librarie with Galen, Auicen, nor Hyppocrates, yet dutifull affection willing to make supplie presented from the garden of my thoughts certeine receipts, compounded of sundrie simples, which I beseech your highnesse to apply as shall best stand with your fauourable opinion.

First to present an Aphorisme which Auicen grudged to pen down, as an enemy to that science, receiue twenty ounces of merrie conceits, pounded in the mortar of a quiet resolution, vse this powder in your morning and evening potions, forbearing to much exercise of minde, as prejudiciall to the body: With the world the painfulllest of vertuous indevours hath all her coffers filled with forgetfull ingratitude.

And sith sicknesse desires companie, and sondrie sorts presentes them selues to a solitarie man, vse a charme so pretious as Galen feared to bewray amidst his principles: write over  
B ij. your

The we  
the wor  
payma

## Perymedes

your chamber doze in Silver letters, Neque medicus si morosus: by this spell you shall forbid Melancholie entrance, the sorest enemy to mans helth, whose operations, as they are secret, so they are mortall. If this should faile, receiue an experiment confirmed with Probatum est. Take the sweete herbe called pleasant content, with that make a perfume about your bed chamber, and where you dyne, the savour of this is as sure a repulse to erile melācholie, as the Ostracisme was to the noble of Athens.

3 Science a monster that wayteth vpon Oportunitie, presents by her selfe to a sicke person in sondrie shapes, some breeding profit, others preiudice to auoide hir illusion, note this: when she comes with a plausible speech, hir attier black in damaske or velvet, a side gowne, a large cape, holding in the one hand a glasse of Goates milke to restore, in the other some secret drug to purge suspect, and graunt no admittance, but lesse you see about her these markes: In hir forehead the figure of myrrh, in hir bosome the pourtraiture of conscience, and the mouth of her purse sealed with the signet of content, marked thus, vse hir as a friend, and send hir away rewarded.

4 In that sicknesse is passionate, and chollier the heralt of melancholie inflicteth many griefes by overflowing of the gall, to suppress his enuious furie, take an herbe of a mild savour, yet verie precious called patience, his vertue is restrictive & expulsive, knitting content to the minde, and driving out disquiet from the thoughtes.

5 The auncient Alchemists reposed great trust in their Philosophers Stone, as the most necessarie iewel to drawe out quintesses for restoratiues. But our late Philosophers haue found out a singular minerall, called Hope, applic this to your stomack as a soueraine simple against disquiet & feare, two passions incident to many patients.

6 Albertus Magnus in his secrets, sets downe the nature of sundrie herbes, some to procure mirth, other sleepe, according to their particular vertues, but our late practitioners, haue founde a roote, whose operation comprehendeth all those properties, which they call Hearts ease, this applie to your left side both day and night, in sicknesse and in health, as a defensorie against ensuing griefes, a preseruer of present quiet, and  
a medicine



## Black Smith.

a medicine generall for any passionate disease. Thus right mightie soueraigne, though not as a Whistion, for that our times and diets broke not his axiomes, yet as a poore and dutifull welwiller, I haue set downe sonde simple remedies fit for receites, which if it shall stand with your highnesse good liking to applie, I shall rest as euer I haue done an earnest suter to the almightie, that their operation may take wished effect, as well for recouerie, as for preserving your health.

## Rabby Bendezzar.



They had no sooner scanned euer this wytyng, but Perymedes began to accuse the iniquitie of their time, that had made such difference in medicinal precepts, & therefore burst forth into these tearmes, Well wife, thus fares the course of the worlde, to decline euer to the worst, for whē Rabby Bendezzar set downe these principles to Pharaο, no doubt Epicures had not yet creaked any Academie in Egypt, but since his time, excellence hath taken such an interest in the mindes of men, that his reasons would be counted follies, in that euer y axiome sheweth not the art of an Apothecarie, but leaning such to their follies, how happie are we that eate to liue, and liue not to eate, who count it a banquet to suffice nature with any thing, hauiug our health, when greater potentates are pained with sursets. Well husband quoth Delia, seeing we are content with our pouertie, and make a vertue of necessitie, let vs not (nimis altum sapere) not stretch our strings so hie as to medle with our superiours, but rest quiet at the delight of our owne estate, and therefore seeing the night is yet long, and our fire is like to last, and this discourse sufficiently discussed, say husband, how shall we spende the rest of the eue. The husband, for what you set downe I hold for lawe. In deede wife quoth Perymedes, it is ill meddling further, than the latherer: a law to the ffors had his skin pulled ouer his eares, for prying into honest the Lyons deniers: poore men should looke no hieer then their wife.

## *Perymedes*

sixe, least in staring at starres they stumble. If others offend and become bitious that are rich, it little booteth vs that are poore to reprehend them, for it reapeth often reuenge, but the best reward is enuie. Clytus, who was a mightie Lord, and friend to Alexander, was slayne for his good admonition: Mightie men cannot brooke the touch of their ill, and therefore we will this night passe away the time in telling some pleasant and merie tale, so shall we beguile the euening with some pleasure, escheue idlenesse, the welspying of many mischieses, and banish vaine thoughtes, that breede disquiet and discontent, my selfe will tell one, and thou shalt tell another. Delia by being silent, seemed to consent, and so Perymedes began his tale in this manner.

### *Perymedes tale.*



**I**n the kingdome of Tyre, while Euribates reigned as soueraine, there gouerned vnder him as his lieutenant, one Prestynes a noble man, better beloued for his Justice, then fauoured by fortune, who hauing a Ladie of no lesse parentage than vertue, and yet accounted the most honorable Patron in all the East parts, liued peaceably in his prouince, till Voltarus king of Sydon attempted the inuasion of Tyre, & finding fortune fauourable to his desires, made a conquest of the lande, killing Euribates, and leading Prestynes prisoner to Sydon: Which newes no sooner came to the eares of his wife Mariapa, for so was hir name, but fearing the violent handes of the enemy, being big with childe, and hauing an other of two yeares of age, she with a fewe Jewels which she had kept secret in a Cassket, imbarked hir self in a little frigot, intending hir course to Lipparry, where hir friends dwelt: but fortune who ment to make hir a mirrour of hir inconstancie, as it were entring a league with Neptune, droue hir vpon the coast of Decapolis, wher perforce she was forced to lande, not remaining on shoare three dayes, befoze in the companie of an other gentlewoman that was



## Black Smith.

was nurse to hir sonne, she was brought to bed of a man  
childe, whome she called Infortunio, distressed thus, she past  
away many daies till a faire winde might serue to transport  
hir to Lippary, which comming about according to the mar-  
riners minde, they caused the Lady to sende hir two infants  
a boorde with their nurse, she hir selfe solitarilie walking by  
the shoare till the cockboate came againe to fetch hir. But the  
destinies who are impartiall in their resolutions, hauing in-  
tended a worse mishap, gaue hir a sorer mate in this maner:  
no sooner had they shipped the sely babes, but that a Barke of  
Coursayes and pyrates came by, who seeing this ship not  
greatly manned for defence, bare towarde it, and boarded it,  
Carrying away, both vessell and mariners as a prayse, which  
Mariana seeing, she sent forth shrikes as intreaties to per-  
suade them to retourne, & most pittifull renting of hir harte,  
made signes of hir sorowes, but in vaine, for she gat nothing  
but dolefull echoes of hir complaints, which strake such a grief  
into hir minde, that she fell downe in a sounde, till at last com-  
ming to her selfe, finding she was depriued of husband, chil-  
dren, countrie, friends, yea and left al alone in a desert, surchar-  
ged with grieffe, she sat her downe by the shoare, and fell into  
these piteous passions.

Infortunate Mariana, whome fortune or some contrarie  
fate aboue fortune hath sought to make a speciall object of  
haplesse and distressed miserie, seest thou not a dismall influ-  
ence, to inflict a dispaireing chaos of confused mishaps, art  
thou not first by the vniust destinies bereft of Prestynis thy  
husband, exiled thy countrey, a place as precious as life, sepe-  
rated from thy friends, the sweetest comfort, but now depri-  
ued of thy children, in whose companie there did consist the  
salue for all the forenamed miseries. Ah Mariana, sigh and sob  
at these sorowes, but what auayles shewers when the har-  
uest is past, or grieffe when actions cannot be amended by  
passions. Nowe Mariana, dost thou see that Fortune, that  
fiend and gracelesse monster, the double faced daughter of  
Janus, whose pleasure is inconstancie, whose thoughts are  
variable, whose temples are strewed with roses and nettles,  
and whose sacrifices sauiour of most infectious incenses: are  
not all hir gifts perilous, seem they neuer so pretious: doth she  
enrich

Friend  
countre  
deare  
man.  
The dis-  
ton of  
tune.

## Perjmedes the

inrichē thee with treasure, feare that in the other hande she  
holdes pouertie, to checke thy presumption: both she aduance  
thee with honoꝝ and dignitie, knowe such fauours are brittle,  
and hir brauest seates are made of glasse: if with friends, alas,  
she presents amidst their troupes fained affections, and flatter-  
ie: thus euerie way hir fauours are mortall, and the more  
glistering, the more prejudicial. Too late poore Ladie, hast thou  
tried these premisses for trueth, thy selfe an instance of hir in-  
constancie: What then shalt thou do, being thus infortunate:  
hope thou canst not, with thy present mishap tels thee, fortune  
hath resolved thine ouerthrowe: dispaire then Mariana, dis-  
paire and die, so shalt thou glut the ruthlesse destinies with a  
most balefull Stratageme: since thy husband, thy children,  
hane bene the first actors, end thou desperatly such a dolefull  
tragedie: let fortune see how thou scoones to be infortunate:  
feare not death which is the ende of sorrowe, and beginning  
of blisse: but to thee Mariana, that lying in distresse, yet des  
happie: let not dispaire euer enter within thy thoughts, grace  
not fortune so much in hir wilfulnesse, bee patient, and so  
spight hir with content, for hir greatest griefe is to see hir  
crosses borne with an indifferent minde. Time, Mariana, is  
the nurse of hope, and oft thwarteth fortune in hir decrees,  
then there by thy selfe, and leade here a solitarie life in this de-  
sert, with such patience, as making a vertue of necessitie, then  
drowne all dispairing conceits with content. ¶ but alas, my  
children, my poore babes, scarce knowne to fortune, before en-  
uied by fortune, and with that casting hir eye to the Sea, she  
was so ouerpressed with sorrowe, as she could not utter any  
worde more, but melting into teares, sat a long time in secret  
and sorrowfull meditation, till at last with a deepe sigh she  
groined forth these wordes. Hope and patience, and with that  
she rose, and resolved to live as a sauage woman, till death  
or some better destinie, might mitigate some part of hir mar-  
tyrdome. In this resolution, she went and sought her out a  
Caue, which she trimmed up, with boughes, making hir in-  
steede of hir beddes of downe, a couch of mosse, and leaues: hir  
saue was hunger: hir foode, the fruites of the earth. And thus  
she lay there by the space of two or three yeere, vnseene, or  
vnknowne of any bodie. Fortune not brooking hir owne bit-  
ternesse,

nce  
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## Black Smith.

fernesse, seeing how patient the Ladie was in hir miseries, determined to adde some reliefe to hir passions, which shee brought to passe in this manner. The Despot of Decapolis and his wife, for solace sake, being one day, rode on hunting, by chaunce, in pursute of a Stagge, which they had in chase, lost their way, and happened into that desert where they had not wandred long, but they met Mariana in sauage manner, almost naked, her haire of amber couler, hanging downe to hir feete, hir face shrincked, and parched with the Sunne, in so much as thus disguised, and deformed, as well with hir ill diet, and the weather, as with hir sorrowe, she seemed some Satire, borne and bred in that desert. The Despot and his wife, amazed at this sodaine sight, stood still, narrowly marking the gesture of Mariana, who was playing with a little ffawne, which she had nourished vp, till at last she casting vp hir eyes, and seeing them there, arose hastily, & was ready to depart, but the Despot, who desired to know what she might be, drawing more neere, perceived by the lineament of hir face, that she had bene a woman of good proportion, began to salute hir in this maner. Woman, Satyre, Symphe, or whatsoeuer thou be, that liuest thus as a sauage creature, in the deserts, tell me of courtesie, as to a stranger that pitties thy estate, whether thou be bred here, and so naturally wedded to this brutish kinde of life: or if some misfortune hath led thee to this extreme mishap, that so either I may marueile at such a strange breede, or els both pittie, and seeke to reliefe thy miserie. Mariana hearing the Despot speake thus honorably and friendly, made no answer at all, but staring in his face, called to remembrance hir former estate, and shamed at hir present wretchednesse, so that the teares standing in hir eyes, the burden of euermuch sorrowe made hir a long while silent, yet at last coming more nere, she made him this answer.

Courteous stranger, if I ouerslip either dutie or reuerence, due to thy calling, thinke my sauage life leades me to such ignorance, and therefore the more worthe of pardon, but whatsoeuer thou be, king or keisar, know this, I am no Satyre, but a woman distressed, and placed here by the enuie of fortune, where time and patience hath leached me to liue content: for thy pitie I returne thanks, as one whome these

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## Perymedes the

woodes haue not yet pierced with ingratitude, for thy reliefe  
 I refuse it as a thing contrarie to my resolutiō, for in this life,  
 I meane to die. So soner had she made this reply, but she  
 was tounring hir back, had not the Despots wife intreated  
 hir to tell the course of hir abode in these desertes, and of what  
 parentage shee was: Mariana hearing the Ladie pitifull,  
 though importunate, began to resolute hir in this maner. Ma-  
 dame, for no lesse your countenance and behauiour imports,  
 long it were to discourse of my former estate, & a taske worse  
 than death, to recount my misfortunes, with the rubbing of  
 halfe healed scarres, would but renewe olde sores, which  
 should grieue me greatlie to rehearse, and would little profit  
 you to heare, yet somewhat to satisfie your demand: know, I  
 once tasted of honoz, as descended from noble parentes, and  
 as you, and felt my selfe safe, seated in pleasure: welth I had,  
 as fauoured with rich possessions, but nowe fates that cannot  
 be auoyded, and fortune that will be mistresse of hir decrees,  
 taught me honoz was brittle, and riches as blossomes, that  
 euerie frost of fortune, can cause to wither: so that both disho-  
 noured and poore, yet I liue more happie, for that I haue oppo-  
 sed my minde against all mishaps, not caring for fortune, be-  
 cause too low for fortune. Thus Madame, you haue heard  
 what I haue bene, and see what presently I am. The Despot  
 seeing she would faine be gone, hearing she was of honozable  
 parentage, kept more nigh, & tooke hir by the hand, adiuiring  
 by the loue she euer bare to him she liked best, that she would  
 tell hir name, hir countrie, and the cause of hir abode in these  
 desertes. Mariana a long while unwilling, and yet at last o-  
 uercome with their importunacie, discoursed vnto the whose  
 wife she was, and from point to point discovered the fore re-  
 hearsed premises. The Despot and his wife, who knew very  
 well Prestines, hearing such a tragical Catastrophe, tooke  
 such compassion of the Ladie, that sitting downe by hir, they  
 fell into teares, which overpast, they sought by perswasions to  
 diue hir from that miserable resolution, the Despots wife  
 offering hir to be second Ladie and mistresse in hir house, wher  
 she should be entertained. not as a friend only, but as hir own  
 sister. Mariana was thankfull, but not to be intreated, till at  
 last wonne with such earnest protestations, she granted to  
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## Black Smith.

go with them, which greatly contented the Despot, so that casting his mantell about hir, and taking hir vp behind him, he roade forward to seeke his companie, whome when he had found, leauing all his sport, he hied home to his house, a ioyfull man of such an incounter. Where we leaue him, and retourne to the Coursayers and Pyrates, who comming at last with their pryse to Iaphet, a promotozie seated by the sea, they solde the nurse and the two children to the gouernour of the citie, who was called Lamoraq; , being brother to the Despot of Decapolis, who when they came to age, kept them vp as slaues, setting the to all kinde of dangerie: the nurse althoughe of meane parentage, yet passing wise, feared to betray from whence the children were issued, and therefore called them hir owne sonnes, naming the eldest, whose name was Castriot, Procidor, but the yongest she suffered to retaine his syzname. The children thus kept seruite, and miserable, being come to some yeares of discretion, their nurse tolde the eldest whose sonne he was, charging him vpon his life not to betray his progenie, least it might be greatly preiudiciall to his estate, but to content him selfe with hope, till time did allowe better fortune. Procidor, soe so we will now call him, as he grewe in yeares, so he grewe in wisdom, that he couertly concealed what his nurse gaue him in charge: And as the Palme tree cannot be brought from his height by pressing downe, nor the Diamont bereaued of his vertue, though he be set in brasse. So Procidor, although he was in the state of a slaue, poore, miserable, and acquainted with labours, yet his minde reaching at hono, began to be impatient of commande, so that in a day, finding fit oportunitie, without taking his leaue of his nurse, he shipt him selfe in a barke of Alexandria, to seeke his fortune, where passing away thre or foure yeeres at the seas, and getting little or no preferment, hearing also that his father (whome he supposed to be dead) was yet liuing, and prisoner in Sydon, as one in dispaire, and past hope, he traueled many straunge countries, till at last he came to Decapolis, where he had not long bene resident, but the Despot seeing him a young youth, verie well proportioned, of good grace, and of a resolute disposition, intertained him into his seruice, so that hee liued in the house with his



## Perymedes the

mother unknownen, for the space of a yeare : in which time, Marcella the daughter of the Despot, noting the perfection of Procidor, began at the altars of Vesta to offer smoking thoughts at the shyne of Venus. For womens eyes delight in the varietie of objectes, the mayde seeing that the sharpnesse of his wit ( a sparke that soonest inflameth desire ) was answerable to the shape of his bodie, and that his minde was adorned with so many sundrie good qualities : that if his fortune had bene equall to his face, his deserts might haue made him a Prince, she began so farre to enter into the considerations of his vertues, that hazarding too rashlie into so dangerous a labyrinth, she felt hir minde begin to alter, and hir affections to stoupe to such a state as repent she might, but recall she could not. But taking these thoughts for passionat ioyes, that might be thrust out at pleasure, cursing loue that attempted such a change, and blaming the basenesse of hir minde, that would make such a choice, to auoide the Syren that enchanted hir with such deceitfull melodie, she called to hir bedfellowe Mariana for a Lute, whereupon warbling a merie galliard, she thought to beguile such vnacquainted passions, but finding that musicke was but to quench the flame with oyle, feeling the assaultes to bee so sharpe as hir minde was ready to yelde as vanquished : she began with diuers considerations to suppress the franticke affections, calling to minde that Procidor was hir fathers seruant, a man of meane and base paréage, for his birth not to be looked at of the daughter of a Despot, much lesse to be loued of one of hir degree, thinking what a discredit it were to hir selfe, what a grieue to hir parents, what a sorowe to hir friends, yea, what a nightie shame should be guerdon to such a monstrous fault. Blaming fortune, and accursing hir owne follie, that should be so fond as but once to harbour such a thought, as to stoupe so lowe as to hir fathers hyperling. As thus she was raging against hir selfe, loue feared if she dallied long, to lose her Champion, and there feare stepping more nigh, gaue hir such a fresh wound as pierst hir at the verie heart, that she was faine to yelde, maugre hir former considerations, and forsaking all companie, to get hir in hir closet, where being solemnlie set, she burst forth into these passionate tearmes.

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### *Black Smith.*

Unhappie Marcella, hath fame hetherto feared to speake ill of thy thoughts, and shall report dare to misconstrue of thine actions, hath Decapolis honoured thee for thy vertues, and shall now all the worlde wonder at thee for thy vanities, hast thou vowed thy selfe to Vesta, and wilt thou runne after Venus? wilt thou be counted a president of virginitie, and yet subiect thy selfe to vnbridled fancie? No Marcella, there is no sweeter friend than libertie, no no worse enemy than inconsiderate affection: the thoughtes of Ladies, Marcella, as they are worthy, so ought they to looke no lower than honoꝝ, Blush then at thy fortunes, thy choice, thy loue, sith thy thoughts cannot be contriued without secret shame, nor thy affections vttered without open discredit: farre are these fancies, or rather follies, vnfit for thy byrth. Hast thou not heard Marcella as an oracle from Apollo, that it is better to perish with high desire, then to liue in base thoughts. And yet Procidor is beautifull, a fauour fond soole framed to feede the eye, not to fret the heart: he is wise, truth, but poore, and want is an enemy to fancy: Eulsh, being both beautifull and wise, why should he not be loued, wilt thou so farre forget thy selfe, as to suffer affection to intangle thee with such bad coniectures: no, consider how such a match will be most dismall to thy father, most grieuous to thy friends, preiudiciall to thy selfe, and most glad some to thy foes, the greatest griefe of all, sith the smile of a foe that proceedeth from enuie, is worse then the tear of a friend that cometh of pittie. These premisses then duely considered, preferre not a Barly cozne before a precious Jewell: set not a fading content before a perpetuall dishonour: suppress thy affections, and cease to loue him who thou couldst not loue, vnlesse blinded with too much loue. As thus she was perplexed with sundrie passions, Mariana came to seeke hir in hir closet, whereupon she ceased hir complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which fond loue and fortune had wrought, but all was in vayne: for so did the remembraunce of her late conceiued loue, alienate hir thoughts from hir wonted disposition, that shame and dishonour, the greatest preuenters of mishap, were no meanes Vnpossible to diswaide hir from hir determined affection: In so much to coce that not possible to hyde fire in the strawe, nor to smother vp loue, fancy

### *Perymedes the*

fancy in youth, she boze such a fauourable countenance to Procidor, that not only hir selfe, but the rest of the house mar- uiled at hir submisle familiaritie. Yet in that she had hetherto troden hir shoe so euene, as no steppe was so much as thought awry, they construed all to the best, and thought hir fauours toward Procidor proceeded as a reward for his vertues, not from a regarde to his beautie. But at last being Venus schol- ler, and therefore daring with hir to daunce in a net, played not so close, but Procidor could iudge of colours, and espye of the halfe what the whole ment, puffed bp therefore a little in conceipt with the fauour of his masters daughter, seeing oportunitie layde hir hairie forehead on his lappe, he began somewhat pearlie to pryie into the exquisitnesse of hir perfec- tion: noting that she was passing beautifull, and young, and that vertue added a grace vnto nature, and that being of no- ble parentage, beautie decked nature with dignitie. This in- terchange considered, so charmed the poore gentlemans affec- tions, that fayne he would haue made requitall of hir fauours with like courtesie, if hir honourable estate had not quatted his presumption with feare: houering thus betwene two streames, at last he burst forth into these complaints.

Doest thou not know poore Procidor, that actiōs wrought against nature, reape despight, and thoughts aboue fortune, disdaine: that what byrd gaseth against the Sunne, but the Eagle, becommeth blinde, and that such as step to dignitie, if vnfit, fall: that thoughtes are to be measured by fortunes, not by desires: how fallēs come not by skouping lowe, but by cly- ming to hie. Shall therefore all feare to aspyre, because some hap to fall: no Procidor, though thou art in ragges, yet thou art noble bozne, thou art not inferiour to Marcella in byrth, though in riches: then dare to attempt, sith she shewes thee such manifest fauours. Ah novice in loue, dost thou count euery dimple in the cheeke a decree in the heart, euery lins a warrant of loue. Venus, fond man, lookt on more than the lo- ued, or els she passing amorous: womens smiles are oft more of custome than of courtesie, and passing prodigall they bee with their eyes when they are nyggardes in their hearts: for thinke not fond man that Eagles will catch at flies, Cedars stoope to brambles, nor such honozable dames at such homely peasants,



## Black Smith.

peasants, no no, thinke hir disoaine is greater than thy desire, for accounting thee but a slaue, and hir fathers mercinarie man, she doth but repay thy labours with affabilitie, therefore cease not onely to say, but to thinke she loues thee.

Procidor with these pitthie perswasions, somewhat appeasing the sparkling flames of loue, that already were kindled in his brest, applied him selfe to his wonted labour, suppressing his affections with the due consideration of hir honour, and his owne meane estate, and counting it frenzie, not sanctie, to couet that which the very destinies would denie him to obtaine. These two thwarted thus with feare and shame, lingreth forth the time, till at last fortune willing to present in a sweete figge bitter wormewood, found such fit oportunitie, that Procidor and Marcella met at such leysure, that not long after, Marcella was knowen to be with childe, which newes no sooner came to the eares of the Despot, but as a man in ragged furie, and reuenge, dyluing reason out of conceipt, he presently caused Procidor to be apprehended, and his daughter Marcella, resolving that according to the law of the country, they should die. The mother more pitifull, considering the follies of hir owne youth, began to intreate hir husband to spare their liues, and assigne what punishment els, though the torture were neuer so grievous: which by long perswasion, he consented vnto, committing them vnto straight prison, where they lay in great distresse the space of ten weekes, before euer the Despot made any question of their imprisonment. While thus Procidor lay sorrowing, more for the mishap of Marcella than for his own misfortune: newes was brought to Decapolis, that Euribates sonne had gathered an host, and sought to driue Voltarus out of the Confinnes of Tyre, which Procidor hearing, he began thus to meditate with him selfe. Unhappy Procidor, see howe fortune intending thy good the haplesse fates seeke to frustrate such successe, hast thou these fourteen yeeres, gone as a vacabonde about the world vnknown and despised, hoping for this day, that Euribates sonne should seeke reuenge on Voltarus, and art thou now in pryson, when oportunitie offereth such good fortune, yea and in such a place as nought but death can redeme thee. The Taylor overhearing Procidor, asked him what he

*Perymedes the*

had to doe with the peace or warres of Princes. Ah my good friend (quoth he) when I consider in what estate my father whilome liued in that countrey, as I haue heard, and am able almost to remember, I cannot but grone to see my present ill happe: And who was thy father (quoth the Taylor) Scing, answered Procidor, that time hath set the sonne of Euribates almost in his kingdome, I feare not to discouer what I am, my fathers name is Prestines, Lieutenant of Tyre, vnder Euribates, & my name not Procidor, but Castriot, and I doubt not but if I were there, for my fathers sake to reape credit and authoritie. Without further questioning, the Taylor went presently and tolde the Despot what he had heard, who making small account of the matter, yet presently considered with him selfe, if it were true, howe greatly he should by making such a marriage, auoyde the shame like to befall to his daughter, therefore he went & asked of Mariana what her eldest sonnes name was, who made answer Castriot, & that if he liued, he was about twentie yeares of age, the Despot suspecting it was he, went secretly to the prison, where examining Procidor of al his life past, found by probable circumstances that he was Prestines sonne, whereupon he began to recount vnto him howe he tooke him into his seruice, placing him in his fauour, then the iniurie he offered him by infringing his daughters honoꝝ, yet for all this, craving no other amends, but that he would take hir to wife, Procidor made answer, what he had done was the faults of his youth, and that he was both sorrowfull and repentant, and that he might thinke it firme loue, and not fading fancie that forst him to commit such a fault, he was ready at his pleasure to take Marcella to his wife. The Despot seeing sparkes of his fathers courage in his resolutions, embraced him, and sending for his daughter into the same prison, there secretly betrothed each to other, then tooke them out, and sent them to a graunge place of his in the countrey: within short time they recovered their former complexions greatly impaired by their close imprisonment. In the meane space the Despot prouiding all things necessarie for the marriage, seeing they were retoured into the former soume, caried his wife, and madame Mariana, to his graunge, where by the way he demaunded of hir, howe



## Black Smith.

how happy it would be vnto hir, if he did marrie his daughter to hir eldest sonne Castriot. Madame Mariana smiling, told him, it was impossible, sith she thought him dead: being well arriued at his farme, he brought his wife & the Ladie into the chamber where the two louers sate, very richely appareled, vnto whom at large he discovered what had happened. When Mariana knewe hir sonne Castriot, noting very well the li- niaments of his face, she fell in a sound for ioye, but being at last reuiued, after many and hartie embracings, and ioy on al partes, they sat downe to dinner: Castriot desiring the Des- pot that he would send to Iaphet where was one Lamoraq; Couernour of the towne, that helde his yonger brother & his nurse, as slaues. This motion was greatly agreeable to the Despot, so that he presently sent a messenger to Iaphet, and an other to Tyre, to heare of the estate of Prestines: The mes- sengers making as much speede as winds and weather would permitte, arriued fortunatly at their desired places, where no sooner the one was arriued, but he deliuered his embassage to Lamoraq;, who musing to heare such newes from his brother, the Despot, went to confirme his doubt the more, and subtely examined the nurse, who confessed as befoze, whereupon to satisfie his brother, and requite the great iniurie he had pro- fered to young Infortunio, hauing but onely one daughter of the age of fourteene yeares, he gaue hir with a great dowry to the poore Gentleman, and withall shipping him selfe in a fry- got, with his daughter, his sonne in lawe, and the nurse, he sayled to Decapolis, at whose arriual great ioy being made betweene Mariana and hir two sonnes, the marriage of the Gentlemen, was solemnised the next weeke after, and to in- crease their content, newes was brought that Euribates sonne hauing subdued Voltarus, and recovered his kingdome, he had set Prestines in former place and authoritie. This newes greatly delighting the companie: When the marriage feast was ended, the Ladie and hir two sonnes, with their wiues, taking leaue of the Despot, and Lamoraq;, sailed to Tyre, where they were most louingly entertained by Pre- stynes.

Perymedes hauing ended his tale, his wife Delia, raging against fortune, that was most enuious to them that were

## *Perymedes the*

most honorable, said that poore men were like little shrubs, that by their basenelle escaped many blastes, when high and tall Cedars were shaken with euerie tempest: concluding therefore, that Mediocria were most firma, seeing her fyre was out, and the night somewhat colde, they both hyed them selues to bed.

### *The second nights discourse.*



The day was no sooner spent in labour, but the poore Smith and his wife, according to their accustomed manner, after supper would not be idle, but sitting close by the fire, Delia brought out an olde payre of Cardes, to passe away y<sup>e</sup> time at play, whereupon Perymides taking occasion, began to discourse in this manner. These Cardes (wife) may rightly be tearmed Glucupilica sweete & sober, double faced, bearing in their foreheads pleasures and peace, & in their backs sorowes & Stratagemes, presenting vs with delicates, which in the mouth taste like hony, but in the malwe moze bitter than Gall, so although we vse them for recreation to passe away the time, yet other ayne at two endes, Lucre and Conetousnesse, and yet their gaines but losse of time. And the effects of gaming here now a dayes in Memphis, as they are many, so they are monstrous, as quarrels, murders, blasphemies, swearing, and cousinage, yea the ouerthrowe of houses and families, testifying the infamous nature therof. Chilon the Lacedemonian, being sent in Ambassage to Corinth, to treat of a league betwixt those two cities, finding the Rulers playing at dice, returned back without once speaking of his commission, saying that he would not Eclipse the glozie of the Spartanes with so great an ignomie as to ioyne them in societie with dice players. Delia hearing hir husband enuying so much against playing, thinking he did it to check hir desire to play at Cardes, began thus to defend it.

And would you haue vs husband so farre from recreation



## Black Smith.

In Memphis, as to be Stoikes or Cyniks, well had I allowed (husband) of your speeches, if they had savoured of anie exception, but so strict an inuective deserves some Apologie, and therefore by your fauour husband, thus, I denie not but those effectes which you repeated as frutes of gaming, are greatly preiudiciall, both to the minde and bodie, but they proceede not of necessitie, as causa sine qua non, but as infections that flowe from the abuse, being growen into an extremitie. For we see that many things which of them selues are good, by ex-  
cesse growe into the nature of euill, and so of this: for Salomon, whose deuine wisdom was without comparison, set downe his censure of time, that as there were daies of sorrow, so were there houres of mirth, that the minde had as well pastimes to recreate, as serious affaires to fatigate. Cato the most seuerer Censor that was euer in Rome, amongst all his straight edictes, did not utterly abolish gaming, but allowed the Purpurati to spende certaine houres at such pastimes as they thought necessarie, saying, that moderate sport was a whetstone to the memorie. I haue heard the Chaldees say, that the Lydians were the first inuenteres of Cardes and Dice, and other games, and by them preserved a long time the estate of their common wealth, which otherwise should haue bene ruined and subiected. Perymides hearing his wife to alledge such sound reasons for Gamsters, thought to ioyne action with her in this manner.

You resemble well those subtill Lawyers, that onely alledge that clause in their euidence, which best serues for the prooue of their plea, leauing out all other provisions that are hurtfull in dede, I remember I haue heard that the countrey of Lidia, being oppressed with a great dearth and scarcitie of victualles, had almost subuerted their estate with famine, but that to resist, and sustaine hunger the better, they inuented playes and gaming, spending euery other day in such sport without any meate, which they continued for the space of twentie and eight yeares, by that pollicie preserving their countrey from a generall famine, by sparing so carefully their provision. But well, the case is altered in vs, we are so farre from recompencing the fault of so vile an occupation by fasting, that contrariwise, we foster it by with all kinde of dis-

## *Perymedes the*

solutenesse, gluttonie, riot, and superfluitie, in so much that we are not ashamed now adayes to vse this prouerbe (that a man had better lose than to be idle) but if those leud Philosophers, which set downe this principle, knewe their inestimable losse, not of mony which they abuse, but of the riches and most pretious thing that may be spent, and which can neuer be recouered: I meane time, they would be ashamed of their doctrine, that to lose is worse than to be idle, because it is ioyned with so bad an action as of necessitie redoundeth to the detriment of him selfe, or of his neighbour, yea, and oftentimes of both. And yet because the nature of man is not able to abide continuall labour, & occasion of businesse is not alwayes offered, we may with our Chaldees in their Academies followe this precept, that time spent in honest pastime or game, of moderate pleasure, may be set downe in the register of happy dayes, as howes not greatly dissonant from vertuous inducours, neither, saith Scipio, is gaming blame worthe, if we vse it as rest and sleepe, after we haue ended & dispatched our businesse. I am glad (quoth Delia) that you allowe vs any time to play. I am not so strict quoth Perymides, but this discourse wise is farre from the purpose, therefore seeing we haue yet halfe the euening to spende, and I haue no delight to play at Cardes, let me heare thee tell a tale, to requite yesternightes chat: Delia nothing dainty with hir husband, taking the tongs in hir hand, to keepe the fire in reparations, began in this manner.

## *Delia hir tale.*



In the Ile of Lyppary, there dwelled sometime a Gentleman of good parentage, as descended from worshipfull and honest parents, learned by education, as trained vp amongst the Philosophers in their academies, vertuous in his actions, as putting in practize those principles which he hearde in their Scholes, as Ariomes: generally, well nourtred, in so much that he liued in  
very



## Black Smith.

very good account in the Iland. This Gentleman called Alcimides, although fauoured thus with sondrie good qualities, yet was greatly enuied by loue and fortune, for his wāt was such, as his reuencies were nothing answerable to his minde, but lived poorly, and yet contentedly in meane estate. Fancie seeing fortune frowne, to fill vp the tragedie, presented him with the sight of a young Gentlewoman, called Constance, who being both wise and beautifull: two persuasions sufficient to induce affection, was so narrowly marked of Alcimides, as he thought no object to fit his eie but her person, nor no melodie to please his eare, but the sound of her modest and graue communication. Snared thus with the consideration of this young Gentlewoman at the first, he found waies to proffer hir roses and perfumes, but at the last pilles, and hemlock. For the young virgin hearing of the vertuous disposition of Alcimides, and seeing his minde was as well garnished with good qualities, as his bodie with proportion, vsed lex talionis, and repaid him loue for loue, so farre as his honestie might desire, & her honoz admitte: in so much that nothing was wanting in the accomplishment of their thoughtes, but her fathers consent: who being moued by Alcimides in the matter, flatly denied, and made this obiection, that he was to poore to make his daughter any sufficient ioynter. Which answer so mazed Alcimides, that in a desperate mood, acquainting certaine friends with his purpose. He rigged forth a ship to sea, with full resolution, either to retourne rich, or to leaue his loue and him selfe in the bosome of Neptune. Upon which determination resting, he loosed with his companions from Lyparie, & in manner of mart, made hauock on y Coast of Barbarie, so that in short time he became very rich, but insatiate couetise, that like the serpent Hidaspiis is euer a thiefe, so baled him to the hope of moze rich purchase, that at last he and all his men were taken by the Sarraſins, and carried away prisoners into Thunes. The news of this mishap, as report must euer be prattling, came flying to the Ile of Lypary, that the ship wherein Alcimides and his Souldiours was imbarqued, was drowned in the Coast of Barbarie: Constance no sooner heard of this cursed Stratageme, but she determined to ende these miseries with death, and that in  
the

### *Perymedes the*

the sea, that she might imitate Alcymides, who was reported to perith in the same Element: to the ende therefore, hir purpose might the moze easily be brought to passe, Constance walking downe to the shoare, found a little fisher boate readie furnished, with mast, sayles & other prouision, floating in the the haven. Which Constance espying, taking this for good occasion, she speedely went into the boat, and as well as she could: as the women of that Island are most skilfull in navigation, haled forth into the maine, and there committed hir selfe to the mercie of the waue and winding, thinking by this meanes to procure sonest hir fatall ende, sith so many accidents were readie, as death & daunger euerie minute. Passed thus two or thre dayes alongst the Coast, till at last a Southeast wynde, dyue the ship vpon the shoare of Barbarie. The Barke thus beaten vp, there was at that present in the same place a poore woman, who made cleane the fishermens nets, which seeing the ship so roughly arriued, thought the Harriners had bene a sleepe, to warne them therefore of their landing, she went by the hatches and found none, in so much that seeking further, she found this young Gentlewoman fast a sleepe, as one secure and carelesse of hir misfortune, whome the poore fisherwife waking, perceiuing by hir apparell, that she was a Christian, demaunded in the latine tongue of whence she was, and the cause of hir so strange imbarcking. Constance risen as it were from a dreame, bearing one speake latine, thought she had bene driuen back againe to Lypary: but casting hir eye about, and seeing hir selfe in an vnknown Coast, she craued of the woman the name of the countrey, who tolde hir, she was in Barbarie, neare a cittie called Sule. Which greatly grieved Constance, that hir death was prolonged, by such a lucklesse aduenture: so that fearing some dishonour in so barbarous a countrey might befall hir virgins estate, she sat her downe and wept. The poore woman taking pittie of hir passions, caried hir home to hir little cottage, and there as well as she might, so comforted the distressed maide, that she tolde hir from point to point, the some of this haplesse accident: and grewe so farre in familiaritie, that Constance demaunded of hir what she was, who made aunswere, that she was of Trapani, a seruant to certaine  
fishers,



## *Black Smith.*

fishers, hir name Mawdleyne: Constance seeing she was a Christian, and could speake Latine very perfectlie, began to intreate hir that she would for the loue of their religion and faith, tell her what course she had best take, that she remaine for a time safe without prejudice either of hono<sup>r</sup> or honesty: Mawdleyne a woman of good and vertuous disposition, told her that there was a Sarrazen widow in the Citie, of vertuous life and good conscience, whose house was oft a sanctuary for the distressed, there she durst assure hir selfe she might for a time remaine, till time and opportunitie should better prouide for her estate: Constance glad of this newes desired Mawdleyne to fauour hir with the benefit of that seruice: who willing to pleasure her before two dayes were past, setting all things to hir minde in order, went with Constance to the widows house, who hauing heard before of Mawdleyne of this maide, gaue her verie good intertainment, & as one pittying hir distresse, heard hir sorrow with teares and remorse: well, Constance thus placed, being in the company of sundry other maides that wrought needle-worke, so applied hir selfe to hir labour, that not only by hir diligence she procured hir mistresse fauour, but by hir courtesie, the generall loue & good liking of all hir fellows. Remaining thus quiet, though not satisfied, fortune willing after so sharpe a Catastrophe, to induce a comickall conclusion, tempered hir storme with this pleasant calme: Alcymedes lying thus in prison, hauing no hope to recouer his freedom, but looking euery daye to be condemned perpetuall slaue to the Gallies, newes came that a Nobleman of great reputation, dignitie & power, had made claime to the kingdom of Thimes, as his owne, and ment by the sword to take it from Martuccio that then presently possess it: this report coming to the eares of the prisoners, Alcymedes who knew very well to speake the Barbarian tongue, told his keeper, that might it please him to bring him to the kings presence, hee would take such order with his grace, as hee should in despite of fortune remaine conqueror. The

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Jailor

## *Perymedes the*

Taylor seeing the request was of importance, told it presently to his Highnesse, who in great hast sent for Alcimides, who gathering the king and his Nobles together, discovered vnto them such a peece of politike seruice, that they all consented to let Alcimides haue the leading of the batward, who vndertaking the charge, as a man greatly experienced in martiall discipline, carried his men in squadrons and troupes so artificially, as his warlike skil did greatly encourage the souldiers: hauing thus set his men in arraye marching forward to meete the enemy, when the battailes were within view and readye to ioyne: Alcymedes taking the King by the hand, presented him to the face of all his armie, and then began to incourage them on this manner:

I need not worthe Gentlemen and Souldiers of Barbarie, seeke to incourage you with a long discourse, vnlesse putting Dyle in the flame, I should put a spur to a free Horse: your former valiant resolutions manifested in manye battailes, the honoꝝ whercof still glozies your name with renowne, assures me, were the enimie like the sands of the sea, and Mars himselfe opposed against our forces, yet the quarrell good, and our minds armed with inuincible fortitude (the vertue that dareth fortune in hir face) maugre fates and destinies, you shall, as euer you haue done, returne with an honorable conquest. And for that the cause toucheth your King, who counteth himselfe a fellow-partner in your fortunes, see he presents himselfe as the first man in the battaile, and last man in the field, vnlesse death giue him a princelie quittance of his kingdome: let him be a myrrour this day of your magnanimitie, let his actions be your precedents, presse but as far as your Generall, & courage Gentlemen, the victoꝝ is ours: see how your sorrowfull Countrymen, onely animated by the rebellious perswasion of a traiteꝝ, stand to receiue vs, whose cowardize scarce dare march a fote to meete vs: I see, yea I see, in their very faces, the portraiture of feare, and therefore Gentlemen, God and our Right, and with that he put spurs to his horse, and gaue  
a furious



## *Black Smith.*

a furious and valiant onset vpon the enemy.

The king ashamed to performe any lesse then Alcimides had promised, taking a strong lance in his hand, pulling downe his Beuier, rusht most furiously vpon the enemy: his Souldiers noting the vnlookt-for courage of their King, followed with such a desperate resolution, that the enemy amazed at the valour of Martucio, who like a Lion, massacring whom he met, ran without stop through the troupes, they laid downe their weapons without any great slaughter. But Martucio forgetting they were his native Countrymen and his subiects still raged, till meeting him that made claime to the crowne, in single combat he slewe him princely in the field: stayed at last by one of his Lords, who told him the battell was ended by the submission of his subiects, who were ashamed that they had bene so forgetfull of their allegiance, causing the retreat to be sounded, he peaceably marched on toward Susa, where putting certaine of the chiefe offenders to the sword, he sent the rest home in quiet. The victorie ended, the King presently summoned a parliament, where with the consent of all his Commons & Nobilitie, hee proclaimed poore and distressed Alcimides Duke of Tunize, and caused him to ride through the Cittie with a Garland of Bayes on his head, and Princely robes, in great and sumptuous magnificence. Being thus aduanced, the report thereof came vnto the eares of Constance, who now knowing him aliue & in great authoritie, whome long since she held for dead, she conceiued such inward ioye, that she could not but outwardly commit the sum of hir minde to the Gentlewoman with whome she dwelt, who pittying hir plaints, promised as soon as opportunitie would giue her leaue, to manifest the matter to Alcimides: Constance impatient of delays would not let the old Gentlewoman take no rest, till one morning she went to Alcimides, and told him that a certaine Gentlewoman was come from Lippary, who desired to speake with him in secret: Alcimides courteous, as one whome hono<sup>r</sup> had not made

### *Perymedes the*

proud, thanked the widow for hir paines, and went home to her house, where she presented him with the sight of Constance: Alcimedes hearing long before that she was dead, stood amazed at the sudden adventure, but the more soule whome loue strange at the very heart, could not abstaine, but blushing, leapt about his necke, bewraying her ioye in teares.

Alcimedes the most ioyfull man aliuie for so happy an encounter, after many swete imbrassings past, demaunded the cause & meanes how she came into Barbarie, who recounting the fore rehearsed discourse, greatly gladdened Alcimedes for the finding of so trostie and true a friend: Long he stayed not but that he revealed this comicall Historie to the King, who desirous to see the Paide, entertained hir with great and princelie courtesie, and with all speed to both their contents, solemnized the marriage, which past, he sent them according to their calling rich home to their friends in Lippary.

Delia hauing ended her Tale, Perimedes began to take occasion to talke of the inconstancie of Fortune, who onely conected to be counted variable in all her actions, for, quoth he, I tell thee wife, I haue seene in my time many rich men, who liued secure in the aboundance of their wealth, dzenen to such extreame pouertie, that their superfluitie was not more then their ensuing want, & many base peasants by hir flattery be so hoisted vp to the top of her waivering whele, as they bee potentates and mightie men of the earth, but her fauours are such as they include misfortune, and when she presents the most comicall shewes, then she intends the most balefull and dismall stratagemes, as the instance of Alexander the great may serue for a president, who in twelue yeares making a conquest of the whole world, and so flattered by Fortune as he seemed to holde hir fauours in his owne hand amidst his most glorie and greatest gloire, was cowardlye poisoned in Babilon. At this Perimedes was readye to enter into a long discourse, his Wife Delia told him the night was farre spent, wherevpon taking his wifes motion for a warning, commanding



## Black Smith.

manding hir to *Conuile le fen*: the poore Smith and his Wife went to Bed.

### The third nights exercise.



The next day being a solempne day of sacrifice obserued amongst the Egyptians Perimedes shutting vp his shop as one that feared to giue the least occasion of offence tying his deuotion to the Gods, his obedience to his king, his loue to his neighbours, and his will to the lawe, causing his wyfe to honor the festinall Rites with her best rayment, him selfe letting in his holy-day Callocke went to the temple, where offering vp his praysons after the Egyptian manner: the Flamins & Rabins hauing expounded their lawes, the poore Smith and his wife returned home to dinner, where hauing taken such repast as fitted their diet & was agreeable to their poore preparation: Perimedes to digest his great chere, with a litle chat began on this maner: noting to day wife (queth he) at y temple, certaine of our great Lords of Aegypt whose beds are framed of Arabian bisse, whose houses stuffed within with plate and outwardly decked & adorned with such curious worke of porphurine, as nature in the same to be overlaboured with arte: Their ports gliffring like the pallace of the Sun, shew to all passengers wonders, to be written in y registers of their memories: But wife, when these great Potentates of the Earth came to discover their inward deuotion at their offering in giuing to the Gods, and the poore, I perceiued them miserable, & so corrupted in the conceit of their owne wealth, that I cryed out in my thoughts, these men are poorer then Perimedes: For I tell thee Delia, this haue I heard of the ancient Caldees, whose bookes were burned with their bones, that he onely is riche, which abandoning all superfluities resteth contented with what Fortune hath fauoured him, his

### *Perymedes the*

estate not pinched with such pouertie, but he may liue honestlye and vertuouslye : who so resolute in this content maketh not his thoughts and passions subiect to the restless desire of gaine, *Is vere habetur diues*, for wife, the minde is the touchstone of content, and holdeth the ballance that proportioneth quiet or disquiet to Kings : for Pharaos our great Prince is not therefore fortunate, for that he is inuested with the diademe, for his Crowne resteth in the lap of Lachesis, and the destinies may depriue him of his dignitie this night : Kings as they haue crownes, so they haue cares, and in passing vnto pleasure, they step vpon thornes, and run ouer a sea of Glasse : not therefore riche for that they are kings, but les content with his annuall reuenues, & satisfied with such limits as are left to the Pharaos : resting thus he is both a king and rich, in that seated amidst the glories of the world, the sundry objects of delights drawes not away his eyes, nor as the Sirens with their inchanting melodies, nor golde nor glories can hale him with anye pleasing sorceries, from the quiet Castell of Content : thus minded Delia I tell thee I call him rich, and therefore holde my selfe one of the wealthiest subiects in all Egypt, in that all my desires haue rested themselves in a peaceable concoord, for my estate I desire to be no higher then a Smith, as thus spighting fortune by my occupation, hauing my Tongs in my hand as a Scepter, to rule in my shop, and as Mercuries Caduceus to charme the inconstancie of the vaine Goddess: her greatest frowne can be but want of a little worke, and that I ouerpasse with patience, and if she smile, then begin I to laugh, that Fortune is glad to become friends with a poore Smith : Now for richesse and treasure I haue plentye, in that I want none, but count my pouertie the verie store-house of abundance.

Delia hearing hir husband thus solemnlye deliuer such Stoicall paradoxes, ioynd issue with him in the same plea, and began to prosecute the matter in this manner. Indeed husband quoth she, the minds of men are so fiered with the  
restles



### *Black Smith.*

restles heate of couetize, as they beat out hotter flames then Enceladus dooth from vnder Etna, and are like the Serpent Hidaspis, which the more she drinke, the more she is pinched with thirst, insomuch that they count great gifts little goods, caring not if they may gaine, what meanes they vse to get, counting all things honest that are profitable, and thinking gall most sweete, if tempered with gold: these men that haue no meane I thinke most miserable, could they with Nimrod build by Babel, or with Ninus lay the foundation of Babilon: for I tell thee Perymides, it is not the coine but the conscience, not the coffers stuffed with store, but a mind lull'd a sleepe with pleasing content, that maketh a man rich: for he that defraudeth his neighbor with vnderminding policies, or circumuenteth him with any intricate deceit, exacting vnrasonable taskes and customs, wapping his friends as if in Dedalus Labozinth, in the quiddities of prejudiciall bargaines, prying into the state of the common treasury, so to indamage the common-wealth for his owne comoditie, gaping as Clutres after the testaments of the dead, not ceasing with the Hauens to pray on linelesse carcasses: such as these husband, (quoth Delia) are not wealthy in that as miserablie they want, but are poore in that they leaue no lawfull meanes to couet. Then quoth Perymedes of these former inferred premises we may conclude, that poorely content is better then richlye couetous, which the ancient Romaines auered in their censures, for whether shall we estimate the mony that king Pyrrhus sent to Fabritius, or els the continencie of Fabritius which made deniall of the same, being proffered frankelye by so great a potentat: and did not the answer of Marcus Curius more glory him & his familie with immortall renowne, in reiecting the masse of Gold sent him by the Samnites, then all the treasure they brought in such pompe to Rome, was not the liberalitie of Africanus, who parted his small Farme with his brother Quintus Maximus, registred in Rome as a thing deseruing perpetuall memory, whē the great wealth  
and

## Perymedes the

and possessors of Lucius Paulus perisht at his funerales, leaving behinde him no monument, but that the Romans did accompt him poore and miserable. These glorious instances of Roman excellencye, proue, that the true richesse consisteth not in the aboundance of wealth, but in the perfect habit of Vertue: for richesse is casuall and momentary, subiect to the frowne of Fortune, as brittle as Glasse, standing vpon a Globe that is neuer permanent, like to the Trees amongst the Natolians, that being couered with flowers in the morning, are talwy & withered befoze night, resembling the frute in the Garden Pelparades, which glistering like gold, toucht presently turneth to Ashes: whereas Vertue is not accidentall but sets out her Flag of defiance against Fortune, opposing himselfe against all the conspyring chances of this worlde: like Aneas armour not to be pierced with any contrary constellation, so insorted into the minds of men, as neither can perish by Shipwacke, which made Bias escaping from the Sea, boldly and merily to saye in his greatest want: *Omnia mea mecum porto*: And the sonne of Anchises carrying his Father on his backe through the flames of Troye, looking behind him to saye, *Animus infractus remanet & virtus inter hostes & ignes viget*. Then Wise thou seest they onely are rich that couet nothing, that want nothing, but living in content, enrich themselves with Vertue: then Delia let me boldly say (and with that the Smith set his hands by his side) that I am rich as the proudest in all Egypt. But now that I may not be too tedious in my discourse, I will to temper mirth with melancholy, and to sing the Satyres of Horace to the Lute, rehearse thee a pleasant Tale tending somewhat to this effect: and thus the Smith began.

### Perymedes tale.



Creby in the confines of Babilon, dwelled a Duke called Gradasso, a man whose many yeares had by long experience learned, that to trust sundry men, was to seeke for an Ele amongst many Scorpions, and



## Black Smith

and therefore hardly granting his right hand to any man, he admitted none into familiaritie, vntill he might sell his courtesie for profit, and they buye his faueur with repentance. But in priuate and secret counsailes, he vsed no freend but himselfe, fearing to find that in others, which he found wanted in his owne cankered stomacke, so skilfull to shadowe his spightfull practises with glosing coulers, as resembling the Pyrite Stone, he burned seuest when he was thought most colde: to trust anye he thought was to despise securitie, and to desire mishap, and therefore knowne more for his authoritie then by his manners, he carryed his thoughts sealed vp with silence, pained with that which he most liked, namelie Fearefull mistrust. This Gradasso although despighted by the Gods and nature, for placing such odious qualities in such an old carcasie, yet was he fauoured by Fortune in possessing large and sumptuous reuenues, and not only advanced with the tytle of honoꝝ and dignities, but also wherewith he most ioyed, he had one onely Child called Melissa: a Ladye so furnished with outward shape of body, and inwarde qualities of the minde, so decked with the gifts of nature, and adorned with sundry exquisite vertues, as Aegypt did not so much despise hir Father for his vicious dispositiō, as they did extoll hir fame for hir vertuous sinceritie: for she although to hir great grieve, seeing into her Fathers lawlesse actions, how with pretended flatterye like to the Hæna he had snared some to their bitter mishap, and that vnder colour of lawe, with exacted extortion he had oppressed the poore, sought not onely as farre as she durst, to pull her Father from such inordinate gaines, but also secretly made recompence to such as hir Father vniustly had almost brought to ruine.

This Melissa flourishing thus in happy fame, the old mis-  
sard her Father casting beyond the Pyrene, knewe by experi-  
ence, that as the hearbe Spattania no sooner sprouteth aboue  
the ground but it blometh, and the Egges of the Lapwing  
are scarce hatched before the young ones can run, so women  
resembling the Apples of the Tree Pala, are scarce ripe before

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they

### *Perymedes the*

they desire to be pluckt, and their yeares not able to discern  
long before they be halfe drowned in loue: these considerati-  
ons moued old Gradasso to preuent had I wist, with taking  
opportunity by the forehead, & therefore sought out amongst  
his bordering neighbours a young Gentleman, the sonne and  
heire of a Baron, whose revenues as they were great, so they  
adiogned fitly to his possessions: which made the doting Duke  
to indenuour to buye him a sonne in lawe answerable to his  
owne opinion: finding his Daughter therefore in fyt time  
and place, he brake with hir in this manner. Thou knowest  
Melissa (quoth he) how carefull I haue bene since thy mo-  
thers death, not onely secretly to provide for thy welfare, but  
openly so to grace thee with exteriour fauours, as all Egypt  
haue iudged me a Father worthe such a Childe: and thee for  
thy obedience deseruing what my liberalitie hath so carefully  
imparted. In thyne nonage I indenuoured to instruct thee in  
modesty and manners, by such vertues to seeme gracious in  
the eye of euery man, now that thou art growne to riper  
yeares, and art famous for the method of thy life through all  
the countrey, seeing thou art fit for marriage, I haue sought  
thee such an husband, as shal honoꝛ thee with his byeth, and in-  
rich thee with his possessions, a man though not so exquisite-  
ly formed by nature, as he maye seeme a second Paris, yet of  
such wealth as hee may countenance and credit with the a-  
boundance of his revenues, and to be bræfe daughter, it is  
Rosilius sonne to the Lord Rosilius latelie deceased: after he  
had named the man, he ceased to heare his Daughters replye.  
Melissa noting with a secret milke hir fathers motion, yet  
so safe durst not oppose hir selfe against his determination,  
but told him that as she was his Daughter, so she was bound  
by the law of nature to obeye him as hir Father, and his will  
should be to hir as a law, which by no meanes she dared to in-  
fringe: this answer pleased the old couetous Duke, that with  
as convenient speed as might be, he brake the matter to Rosi-  
lius, who hauing no more wpt then hee well could occupye,  
noting how faire a Lady he should possesse, condescended with  
great



## Black Smith.

great thanks to the Dukes motion, and thereupon frequenting the house of Gradasso began after his homely fashion to court the young Lady Melissa, as fit to wooe so braue a Gentlewoman, as Pan to be sent from Troye in ambassage to Helena: well, these two discords of descanting, to make a concord:

It fortuned that a Gentleman next neighbour to the duke, had a young sonne called Bradamant, a man so sufficiently graced with externall fauours of nature, to beautifie his body, and with inward qualities and vertues to aduance his minde as he was generally liked and loued of all the country: This young Gentleman passing by the Court of Gradasso, espied Melissa looking out of a windowe: Bradamant amazed at the sight of such a heauenly creature, stood a long while astonished at her excellent beautie, in so much that Melissa casting her eye aside, espied him, and with that shut the casements: which somewhat daunted the minde of the young Gentleman, to be so sodenly depriued of that object which so greatly pleased his eyes, but taking this her modest discourte, lie in good part, he passed forward to take a beu of his fathers grounds, where as he sollemnly & solitarily walked, he felt in his minde a sparkling heate of affection, which he tooke as a toy of youth, rather to be laught at for the sudden passion, then to be prevented for any ensuing danger. As thus he rested a little perplexed, but not greatly pained, Cupid that grudged to lose such a nouice, hauing his winges plumed with Times feathers, least hee might let slip occasion, seeing this young Gentleman at discouert, thought to strike while the Iron was hot, and so drew a boulte to the head, and strooke Bradamant at the very harte, which pierced so deepe, that no physicke could cure: For the same of Melissas life began to allure him, the report which all Egypt made of hir courtesie, was a chaine to intangle hys freedome, hir honour, byrth, parentage, and incomparable beautie, gaue such fierce assaults to his perplexed fancie, as no defense of reason was able to withstand those violent impressions.

### *Pèrymedes the*

Bradamant seeing himselfe pained with these brachdainted fits, was driven into a quandary, whether he should valiantly resist the incanting tunes of Cupids sorcery, and so stand to the chance whatsoever the mayne were, or els yeelde to the alluring call of Beawtye, and so spend his youth in seeking and suing for doubtfull though desired favours. Tossed a while in these contrary thoughts, and pinched with the consideration of his owne estate, he began to think that to fire his fancie upon Melissa was with the vnmay Criphons to pecke against the stars: and with the Welshes to barke against the Moone, seeing the basenesse of his birth, and such a rich small as Resilius was, would greatly preiudice his intended lute. These considerations began somewhat to repress his dotting fancies: but Cupid not willing to take so slender a repulse, thought straight to race out these despairing thoughts, with the comfortable Conserues of Hope, and to draw Bradamant out of the Labyrinth of distrusting icare, with the assured possibilities of atchieving his enterprize. He therefore began to encourage his Champion with these plausible coniectures, that Melissa was a woman, and therefore to be wonne, if beautifull, with praues: if coy, with praies: if proud, with gifts: if couetous with premiums: to conclude, that as there is no stone so hard which cannot be cut, no Hawke so rammage tamed: so there is no woman so infected with the bitter passion of selfe-will: noire so spotted with the staine of hellish cruelty, nor so wedded into wilfull forwardnesse, but they may be drawne to the lure by some of the forenamed practises. Bradamant pricked forward with these pittie perswasions, and yet driven backe with the feare of some haplesse ventall, stood diuersly perplexed whether he should with a momentary content sue after losse, or with a long trespasse forke after gaine, remaining a while in these doubts, halfe frantike with such unaccustomed fits, he fell into these passionate complaints:

Oh Bradamant how art thou diuersly perplexed, driven  
either to purchase haplesse content with fading pleasures, or



## Black Smith.

to gaine a happy disquiet with ensuing profits: if thou chose the first, thou art like to repent at the last: if the second, for e with Hercule after painefull labours, to obtaine fame and quiet: the Caspians fearing to be stifled with swete saours, weare in their bosomes bands of Hemlocke: the people Pharusij doubting to surfet with drinking the iuice of Liquorice, prevent such perils with chewing iackwarbe: it is better to be pained with the sting of a Snake, and recover, then be tickled with the venime of Tarantula and dye laughing: hard yea hard it is, Bradamant, to ride on Scianus Horse, for his beauty and then perish, or to gaine the Golde of Thalessa with assured mishap: better it is for a time with sorrow to prevent dangers, then to buye fading pleasures with repentance: Why Bradamant, what cause shalt thou haue to repent? Is paine alwayes a companion to pleasure? is danger the hand-maide to Loue? is fancey neuer painted but trading vpon thornes: yes no doubt, as Cupid hath arrowes that do pierce, so they make swete wounds. Yet vs I grant hath a wrinkle in her brow, but two dimples in her cheeks, the frownes not vpo them that sacrifice at Paros: but paines such as despise hir Deitye: Loue Bradamant, why dost thou leue, yea alas, and therefore unhappy because in leue, a passion so briefe for thy young yeares, as if thou yeld to Cupids allurements, thou shalt haue cause either to curse the Destinies for appointing him a God, or accuse the Gods for creating thee a man: for loue whatsoeuer the lucke be is alwayes tempered with losse: if thou winne, thy gaints shall be like theirs who buye Honey mixed with Gall, the swetnesse not halfe so much pleasing the taste, as the bitternesse infecteth the stomacke: Partholius drawing the counterfeit of loue, painteth hir tickling Petith on the left side with a Feather, and stinging him on the right with a Scorpion: meaning that they which are sotted with the sorceries of Cupid, rape for a dram of Golde a pound of drosse, and for a pinte of pure oyle, a whole tun of infectious poison, being a fading pleasure mixed with bitter passions, and a miserie tempered with a few

## *Perymedes the*

momentary delights. It is for youth Bradamant to spend their flourishing yeares in vertues not in vanities, to delight in hard armours, not in delicate and effeminate amours, not to dallye in the chamber with Paris, but to march in the field with Hector, to wish they could loue, not to repent they haue loued: Hercules wunne his fame not with recounting his lawlesse and licencious loues: but by atchieuing strange and inuincible labours, the one winning him endlesse renowns, the other vntimely death: seeke then to bridle fancie with reason, and to restraine dotting affections with due counsaile: quench the flame of appetite with wisdom, and reaching at honoz, spurne at beautye, so mayst thou say Venus flames are but flashes, and call Cupid a despised boye, not a redoubted God: Bradamant thinking thus with blaspheming curses to shake of fancies shackles, went out of his chamber to sport himselfe with his companions, where he passed away the day in playing at Chests, but although he gaue the checke, he was faine at last to take the Mate: for Venus hearing with what despightfull tearmes he abused her Deity, thought seeing he despised loue, to make him yeld vnto loue, and with panting sighes to craue pardon, where with bitter speeches he had railed: she therefore seeing he began to make a rampire against fancie, thought to giue a fresh assault to his halfe defended fortress, and to send Desire as a Herald to make the challenge, that Beautie as a champion might performe the charge: which done, Bradamant willing to withstand hir power, passed three or foure daies in perplexed passions, counting loue as a toye, which being taken in a minute, might be left of at a moment: but he fond as the Abenstone once kindled can neuer be quenched, as the Griffon if he once soare into the ayre will neuer come downe without his praye: so if Venus giue the assault, it is impossible to escape without sacking: if loue displaye her flag, she neuer returns without victorie: which forced Bradamant to present them with prayers, whome he had plagued with curses, and where he had shed bloud, there to offer the sacrifice: for the remembrance of Melissas beautie  
so



### *Black Smith.*

so fiered his affections, that as the flye *Pyrulus* cannot liue out of the flame, nor the bird *Trochilus* keepe from the infectious *Crocodile*: so vnles he might enioy what he feared to possesse, no meanes but death could cure his malady: Bradamant pining a long while in these doubtfull thoughts, began once againe to debate with himselfe, but all in vaine, yet manger his owne mind he burst forth into these speeches: alas poore Bradamant, thou reachest at that with thy hand which thy hart would faine refuse, playing with the byrde *Ibis* which hateth Serpents yet feedeth on their Eggs: consider Bradamant thou art the sonne of a poore Gentleman, and the daughter of a mighty duke, the disdaine of thy parentage, thy living, thy patrimonic, is a sufficient cooling to thee: thinke not Eagles will catch at flies, or such mightye potentates stoop to such poore peasants. The Bull and the Hiena cannot be fed together in one stall: The Elephant eateth not where the Mouse hath crept: the Eagle & the Dove, pearke not on one branche: these brute beasts moued only by sence, thou a man, and not to be perswaded by reason: cease then Bradamant to loue her who soares so far aboue thy reach, as looke at hir thou maist, but obtaine her thou canst not: play like the tree *Cytizus*, that suffereth no flye to light vpon his flower: let thy mind be like *Hercules* temple, whereinto no Dog can enter: suffer not lone to scale the forte wherein freedom hath taken charge, so shalt thou both escape ensuing dangers, and proue thy selfe more wise then amorous: Ah Bradamant, what dost thou meane to measure y<sup>e</sup> heauens with a line, or to furrow the seas with a plough: seekest thou to extinguish loue by force, or to prevent fancie by counsell: dost thou meane to quench fire with a Sworde: or to stop the winde with a feather. Thou knowest loue is to be feared of men, because honoured of the Gods: *Jupiter* could not resist fancye, nor *Apollo* withstand affection, they Gods and yet in loue, thou a man and appointed to loue. It is an impression Bradamant not to be suppressed by wisdom, because not to bee comprehended by reason: without lawe, and therefore must needs bee aboue all lawe:  
Griue

### *Perymedes the*

Drive not then against the streame, feed not with the Deare  
against the winde, sake not to appease Venus with flanders,  
but with sacrifice: Melissa is beautifull and vertuous, to be  
wonne with intreatie, if thou feare not to attempt: what  
though Gradasio frowne, may not the favour: he listeth with  
crueltie, and therefore must hate: she stirred by Venus, and  
therefore must loue: if Melissa like, passe not, if he lowre, yea  
let both your parents mislike, so you two rest in contented  
quiet. Bradamant had no sooner uttered these words, but he  
felt his minde halfe eased with flattering himselfe thus in  
his follies, so that from doubting if he might loue, he fell to  
devising how to obtaine his loue: Resting thus diuersly pas-  
sionate: Melissa of the contrarve part began greatly to affect  
young Bradamant, and though his meane byrthe, his parents  
rage and lyeing, did dissuade her from liking so base a youth:  
yet a restless desire, a secret Idea and contemplation of his  
vertues and beautye, made him thinke if Gradasio would  
graunt, she could prefer Bradamant before Resilius, so that  
bindred in a Dylemma, she began thus doubtfully to debate  
with hir selfe: Oh unhappy Melissa, whose minde is payned  
with vnacquainted passions, and whose head is troubled with  
vnequall thoughts: Shall thy Virgins state be stained with  
fond desires, or thy young yeares darkened with Cupids sha-  
dowes: Is fit for thee Melissa to spend thy youth in labours  
not in loues, to pace solemnly after Vesta, not to gad wan-  
tonly after Venus: maides must haue deniall in their mouth  
and disdayne in their hearts, so shall they safely remaine free,  
and securely despise Fancie: Diana is painted kissing Ver-  
tue, and spotting Beauties face with a Iersell: Virgins  
must delight in ancient counsailes, not amorous conceits,  
least in smelling vpon swete Violets, they stumble on bitter  
Rue. Truth Melissa, thou giuest good precepts if thou canst  
follow thine owne principle, thou art perswaded by Brada-  
mant to loue, but take heede of such balefull allurements,  
arme thy selfe against his charming desire, with a chaste dis-  
daine, so shalt thou be sure as he which weareth Law, ell can-  
not



*Black Smith.*

not be hurte with lightning, nor be that carrieth the pen of a  
Eagle perish with thunder: so shall neither Love nor Fancie  
paine thee with haplesse passions: thinke this, Bradama or is a  
man, and therefore inconstant: and as he sayth a Lover, and  
therefore a flatterer, as fickle as the Wolves of Syria which  
forget their praye ere they be halfe satisfied, & as dissembling  
as Iupiter, who feedeth Semele for a while with Nectar, and  
then killeth hir with fire. Sith then Melissa to loue is to lose,  
feare not Venus as a Goddesse, but despise her as a wanton,  
intreate not Cupid with prayers, but with curses: tell Fan-  
cie thou wilt reiect hir as a bassall, not regard hir as a vertue:  
for Bradamant raile at him as a peasant to loue for thy pas-  
sions: in stead of courtesie, present him with Medas inchan-  
ted Casket: doth Bradamant loue Melissa? no he hateth Me-  
lissa, he faineth loue to procure thy losse, he flattereth to trye  
thy follie, and if he find thee to fond, he will bring thee a slaue  
with melodie, and then strike of thy head with Mercurie. Oh  
Melissa condemne not Bradamant, without cause, if thou mea-  
nest not to loue him, delight not to lacke him, proffer him not  
Netles sith he presents thee with Roses: if he yeld the Wo-  
nie rub not his hinc with gall: answer him friendly, though  
thou straine courtesie to flatter, for swate promises please  
more then sower gifts, and pleasant potiers are better taken  
though infectious, then bitter pills though most wholesome: &  
know this Melissa, that the flame of the hill Chymera, is to  
be quenched with Hape, not with water: the mountaine in  
Harpasa to be remoued with ones finger, not with the whole  
strength: and love to be driuen out with reason, not to bee  
thrust out with force, least in striving against Venus she play  
the woman and seeke to reuenge. Melissa had no sower utter-  
red these words, but going into her Closet she passed alwaye  
the time two or three dayes perplexed: her swate loue Rosi-  
lius could not with all his clownish courting, driue hir from  
hir dumps, but still all her thoughts and imaginations were  
fixed on the wytte and personage of yong Bradamant, so that  
both the louers sought by walking in the woods to meete there

*Perymedes the*

to discover those fiery passions, which secretly smothered within their breasts; Bradamant knowing the course that his love was to keepe, taking his Lute in his hand, repaired to a grove whether Melissa presently resided, & seeing the Saint whom in heart she did reverence, stealing secretly amidst the thicket she determined to heare some part of his passions: Bradamant full of melancholy dumps, tuning his Lute, began to warble out this madrigale:

The Swans whose pens as white as Iuory;  
Eclipsing fayre Endymions siluer-loue:  
Floting like snowe downe by the banckes of Po:  
Nere tunc their notes like Leda once forlorne:  
VVith more dispairing sortes of madrigales,  
Then I whome wanton loue hath with his gad,  
Prickt to the Courte of deepe and restlesse thoughts,  
The frolike yoongsters Bacehus liquor mads,  
Run not about the wood of Thessaly,  
VVith more inchaunted fits of lunacy,  
Then I whome loue, whome sweete and bitter loue,  
Fiers infects with sundry passions,  
Now lorne with liking ouermuch my loue,  
Frozen with fearing, if I step to far:  
Fired with gazing at such glymmering stars,  
As stealing light from Phebus brightest rayes,  
Sparkles and sets a flame within my brest,  
Rest restlesse Loue, fond baby be content:  
Child hold thy darts within thy quiver close,  
And if thou wilt be rouing with thy bowe,  
Ayme at those hearts that may attend on loue,  
Let countrey swaines, and silly swads be still,  
To Court yoong wag, and wanton there thy fill.

After that Bradamant had recorded this dittie, he heard a great rushing in the bushes, wherebpon desirous to see what it might be, he espyed Melissa, at whose sight he stood so amazed, as if with Medusæes head he had bene turned to a stone: the Lady as much agast, hauing a cōsin of hers with hir called Angelica, uttered not a word, but the Lovers made mute with



## Black Smith.

with loue, stood as persons in a trance, til Bradamant discour-  
sing his loues, and making open his priuie passions, fell  
downe at her fecte, and craued mercie: the Ladye as deeply  
payned as he was passionate, could not conceale fire in the  
straw: nor dissemble loue in her lookes, but flatlye tolde him  
that both the proportions of his bodye, and the vertues of his  
minde had made such a conquest in her affections, that were  
it not the crabbed and couetous disposition of the Duke, she  
could find in her heart to make him hir onely paramour, but  
hir father Gradasso had prouided her a mariage, whome she  
durst not refuse, a man able with his wealth to maintaine hir,  
with his parentage to credit hir, and that his possessions were  
great gifts to content, and little gods to command, euen Ve-  
sta her selfe to leaue hir Virginitie, but quoth she, how I rest  
discontent with the match, I appeale to the Gods and myne  
owne conscience: Bradamant hearing her so willing to be  
wonne, tolde hir that pollicies in loue were not deceipts, but  
wisdomme: that to dissemble in affection was to offer Venus  
her rights, and therfore if her fancy were such as she did pro-  
test, it were easie to inioye the fruition of their loues: Not so,  
quoth Melissa, for rather had I marrye Rosilius, and so wed  
my selfe to continuall discontent and repentance, then by be-  
ing lose in my loues, and wanton in my thoughts disobey-  
ing my fathers commaund, to disparage mine honour and  
become a by-word throughout all Aegypt, for Ladyes honours  
are like white lawnes, which some are stayned with euery  
mole: men in their loues haue libertie, that soare they ne-  
uer so high nor stoop they neuer so lowe, yet their choice is  
little noted: but women are more glorious objects, and ther-  
fore haue all mens eyes attentively bent vpon them: yet  
(quoth she) how I mislike of my Fathers commaund, and  
how male-content I am, lend me your Lute, and you shall  
heare my opinion: Bradamant glad that his Distresse would  
vouchsafe to grace him with a Song, deliuered hir the instru-  
ment, whereupon Melissa being verie skilfull, warbled out  
this Dittye:

### *Perymedes the*

Obscure and darke is all the gloomie aire,  
The Curtaine of the night is ouerspred:  
The sylvant Mistresse of the lowest ipheare,  
Ruts on her sable coulered vale and lower.  
Nor Star nor Milkewhite cyrcle of the skye  
Appeares where discontent doth hold her lodge.  
She sits shrind in a Cannapie of Clouds,  
Whose massie darkenesse mazeth euery sense.  
Wan is her lookes, her cheekes of Azure hue,  
Hir haire as Gorgons foule retorting Snakes,  
Enuie the Glasse wherein the hag doth gaze,  
Restlesse the clocke that chimes hir fast a sleepe,  
Disquiet thoughts the minuts of her watch,  
Forth from her Caue the fiend full of dooth flie,  
To Kings she goes, and troubles them with Crownes,  
Setting those high aspiring brauds on fire,  
That flame from earth vnto the seate of loue,  
To such as Midas, men that dote on wealth,  
And rent the bowels of the middle earth  
For coine: who gape, as did faire *Danae*,  
For showers of Gold their discontent in blacke,  
Thiowes forth the viols of her restlesse cares,  
To such as sit at *Paphos* for releefe,  
And offer *Venus* manie solemne vowes,  
To such as *Hymen* in his Saffron robe,  
Hath knit a *Gordion* knot of passions,  
To these, to all, parting the glomie aire,  
Black discontent doth make hir bad repaire.

So sooner had *Melissa* ended this Sonnet, but for feare  
the two louers, though most vntwilling, parted, determining  
when occasion would serue, they would meete againe: yet  
was not their meeting so in secret, but old *Gradaflo* knew of  
their conference: whereupon he not onely blamed his daugh-  
ter, and in bitter and railing tearmes misused the father of  
*Bradamant*, but sought with all possible speed to dispatch the  
mar-



*Back Smith.*

marriage: Melissa passing the dayes in melancholie, and the night in passionate dumps, that her nuptials were so nye though men determine the Gods doe dispose, and oft times many things fall out betwene the Cup and the lip, so: the day being appointed, certaine tenants, as well Gentlemen as others, that were vnder the Duke, went to Pharao with generall complaints of his conetous and barbarous crueltye. Pharao whose thoughts aimed at excessive desire of coine, tooke oportunitie by the hand, & thought by these complaints to possesse himselfe of all his possessions and treasure, whereupon he sent for the Duke & Rosilius, and after he had heard the complaints, he banisht him, and Rosilius his sonne in law, with his Daughter Melissa, out of all the confines of Aegipt. Gradasso willing to answer to his accusers, could not be suffered by the King to make any reple, but within three dayes they must depart, which so danted the Duke and yong Rosilius, that they stood like those men that Perseus turned to stones, and poore Melissa sorrowing at the hard censure of the King, and weeping at the mishap of hir Father, cryed out against Fortune that was so fickle, and the starres that had so badlye dealt in the configuration of their natiuitie, seeing hir sorrow with teares, and hir Fortunes with wailings: well to be bryefe, the day came of their departure, the Duke with Rosilius and Melissa were imbarcked in a little Ship, and so transported into Libia, where when they arrived, the Duke for that he had small acquaintance or none in the Countrey, liued obscurely and in poore estate: the clowne Rosilius hauing no qualities of the mind, onely at home relying vpon his reuenues, & now abroad driuen to satiffie his thirst with his hands, and to relieue his hunger with applying himselfe to any seruite kind of bondage: Melissa she got hir selfe into the seruite of a rich marchant, where with such courtisie she behaued hir selfe, that she was generally liked of all the household: while thus these three pilgrims liued in this penance, Bradamant hearing of this straunge accident, fell into diuers and sundry perplexed passions: First the seruent affection he

### *Perymedes the*

bare vnto Melissa, tolde him that Fortune may not part louers, no; the inconstant constellation of the planets, dissener that which Fan. ye had vnited with such a bande, that the bowes of Venus are not to be violated: that loue must resemble a cyzcle, whose motion neuer ceaseth in that rounde, therefore he was bound by loue and dutie, to sayle after them into Lybia, and there to giue what relæse he could to these exiles: but to these resolutions came strange and contrary motions: First the forsaking of his Father whome he most reuerently honoured: secondly his fræends, whome in all duty he did reuerence, but that which pained him most, was to leaue Egypt his countrey, which hee loued more then his life, in so much that with Vlisses hee counted the smoke of Ithaca sweeter then the fiers of Troie, these considerations drewe him from his resolution of departure, so that he stayed for two or thre daies passionate in Egypt but loue that is restlesse suffered him to take no rest, but in his dreames presented him with the shape of Melissa, and waking, Fancie set so playnely the Idea of her person and perfection before his eyes, that as one tormented with a second hell, neither respecting father, country, no; friends, as soone as wynde and weather did serue, rigging a bonny Bark to the Sea, he passed into Libia, where he was no sooner arriued, but straight hee highed him to the Court, where then Sacrapant the king of that land kept his pallace royall, Bradamant living there for a space as a courtier, won such fauour for his excellent wit and rare qualities, that the king held him as one of his cheefe gentlemen, and promoted him with great giftes, in so much that who but Bradamant in all the Court of Libia, shewisht thus in great credit, he sought about to finde out the Duke and his daughter, him on a day as he passed downe to y sea Clifles he found gathering of Cockles, professing the state of a Fisher-man: with whom, after he had parted a litle, he bewrayed what he was, & in what estimation he was with Sacrapant: the Duke glad to see one of his countrymen, and neyghbours in so strang a land embraced him, to whom Bradamant briefly discour-  
sed



### *Black Smith.*

set his mynde as concerning the imperfections of Rosilius how his wealth onely respected, whereof now he was depriv'd, he was a mere peasant and slave of nature, not able, being exil'd though noble borne, to shew any sparks of honor: seeing then the Duke was tyed to extremities he would now marry his daughter, and make hir liue as hir calling deserved in the Court: Gradasso no sooner heard his minde, but he graunted to hys motion, so that Bradamant breaking the matter to the king Sacrapant with all his Lordes seeing the Dainzell so fayre condescended, and with great pompe solemnised the Nuptials, where Bradamant mainteyned his wyfe and his father very richly untill Pharaos dying, the Duke Bradamant and his wyfe Melissa with the clownish Lord Rosilius passed home to theyr former Possessions: Perimedes hauing tolde his tale, he burst forth into these speeches: Thou seest Delia how farre wit is preferred before wealth, and in what estimation the qualities of the mynde are in respect of worldly Possessions: Archimedes hauing suffered Shipwack on the Sea being cast on shoare all the rest of the passengers sorrowing because theyr goods were lost, he espying certaine Geometrical Characters, merrily and cheerefully sayd vnto them, Feare not fellow-mates in misfortune, for I see the steps of men, and so passed: but when hee was known among them, the Philosophers releued them all. Least Perimedes should haue gone forward in his discourse, one of his neighbours came in to beare him company, and so hee ceased from his prattle.

If the rest of theyr discourse happen into my hands, then Gentle-men looke for Rewes.

William Bubb Gentleman, to his  
freend the Author.

**A**fter that freend Robin you had finished *Perymedes*, and vouchsafed to commit it to my vewe, liking the worke, and so much the rather, for that you bestowed the Dedication on my very good freind Maister *Geruis Clifton*, whose deserts merit it (and one of more worth) whē your labour shall be imploied more seriouſlie: the last ſheete hanging in the Preſſe, comming into your ſtudie, I found in your Deſke certaine Sonets, ſained to be written by the *Caldees*, what time the poore Smith and his wife liued ſo contentedlye, which ſhee hauing kept as iewels in her Cheſt, and you as relikes in your Chamber, not letting any but your familiars to peruſe them, for that you feared to diſcouer your little ſkill in verſe: theſe Sonets for that they fit my humour, and will content others, or els my iudgement failes, I charge thee by that familiar conuerſing that hath paſt betweene vs, that thou annex them to the end of this Pamphlet, which if you grant, we ſtill reſt as we haue beene, if not, *Actum eſt de amicitia*, and ſo farewell.

*Thine William Bubb.*



The Author.

**B**eing Gentleme thus ſtrictly coniured by mine eſpeciall good freend, I dare not but rather hazard my credit on your courtesies then looſe for ſo ſmall a triſtle his freendſhip whome I haue euer found a ſaithfull as familiar,



Black Smith.

familiar, and so familiar as can come within the compasse of amitie: then I humbly intreate, if my verses be harse, or want the grace that Poëms should haue, that you will overshadow them with your fauours, and pardon all, the rather for that I present them vpon constraint: if in this your courtesies shall freend me, I will either labour to haue better skill in Poetrie, or els sweare neuer to write anye more, and so I hartely bid you farewell.

R. G.

**W**hen the Caldees ruled in Aegypt, as the Gimnosophists did in India, and the Sophi in Greece, they besed to endeuor as far as their graue counsailes could preuaile, to suppress all wanton affections, respecting not the degrees of persons, to whome they deliuered their satyricall exhortations: it chanced therfore, that Plamnetichus yongest sonne, addicted to much to wanton desires, and to sot himselfe in the beautie of women: one of the Caldees having an insight into his lasciuious lyfe, perswaded him to desist from such fading pleasures, whose momentarye delights did bræde lasting reproche and infamie: the yong Prince making light account of his words, went into his Studie, and writ him an answer Sonnet-wise, to this effect:

I am but yoong and may be wanton yet.



**I**N Cypres sat fayre *Venus* by a Fount,  
Wanton *Adonis* toying on her knee,  
She kist the wag, her darling of accompt,  
The Boie gan blush, which when his louer see,  
She smild and told him loue might challenge debt,  
And he was yoong and might be wanton yet.

H

The

*Perymedes the*

The boy waxt bold fiered by fond desire,  
That woe he could, and court hir with conceipt,  
Reason spied this, and sought to quench the fire  
With cold disdain, but wily *Adon* straight  
Cherd vp the flame and saide good fir what let,  
I am but young and may be wanton yet.

Reason replied that Beawty was a bane  
To such as feed their fancy with fond loue,  
That when sweete youth with lust is ouertane,  
It rues in age, this could not *Adon* moue,  
For *Venus* taught him still this rest to set  
That he was young, and might be wanton yet.

Where *Venus* strikes with Beauty to the quick,  
It litle vayles sage reason to reply:  
Few are the cares for such as are loue-sicke  
But loue: then though I wanton it awry  
And play the wag: from *Adon* this I get,  
I am but young and may be wanton yet.

After the young Prince had ended his sonnet and gyuch  
It as it were in derision to the *Caldee*, the olde man willing  
to gyue him a *Drop* of the same sawee, called together his  
wpts, and refelled his reason thus, after his owne methode:

The *Syren Venus* nourist in hir lap  
Faure *Adon*, swearing whiles he was a youth  
He might be wanton: Note his after-hap  
The guerdon that such lawlesse lust ensueth,  
So long he followed flattering *Venus* lore,  
Till feely Lad, he perisht by a bore.

*Mars*



*Black Smith.*

*Mars* in his youth did court this lusty dame  
He wooon hir loue, what might his fancy let  
He was but young: at last vnto his shame  
*Vulcan* intrapt them slily in a net,  
And call'd the Gods to witnesse as a truth,  
A leachers fault was not excus'd by youth.

If crooked Age accounteth youth his spring;  
The Spring, the sayrest season of the yeare,  
Enricht with flowers and sweetes, and many a thing  
That fayre and gorgeous to the eyes appeare:  
It fits that youth the spring of man should be,  
Right with such flowers as vertue yeldeth thee.

After that the olde Caldee had penned this Poeme, he  
presented it to the young Prince, but how it tooke effect I li-  
tle know, and leave you to suppose: but this I am sure, De-  
lia kept it in hir Casket as a Relick: and therefore as I had  
it I present it.

This Sonnet had no name prefixed, so that I knowe  
not whose inuention it was: but Delia held it more deere  
then all the rest, so that before shee dyew it out off hir  
Booke shee prayd it with many protestations: but as the  
Argument may inferre coniecture, it was done by a Lo-  
uer, whose Mistresse was hard-hearted: which hee discou-  
ered Metaphozically and myldly: Thus:

## Perymedes the

**F**Aire is my loue for *Aprill* in her face,  
Hir louely brests *September* claimes his part,  
And Lordly *Iuly* in her eyes takes place,  
But colde *December* dwelleth in her heart:  
Blest be the months, that lets my thoughts on fire,  
Accurst that Month that hindreth my desire.

Like *Phæbus* fire, so sparkles both her eies,  
As ayre perfumde with Amber is her breath:  
Like swelling waues her louely teates do rise,  
As earth hir heart, cold, dateth me to death.  
Ave me poore man that on the earth do liue,  
When vnkind earth, death and dispaire doth giue.

In pompe sits *Mercie* seated in hir face,  
Loue twixt her brests his trophees dooth imprint.  
Her eyes shines fauour, courtesie, and grace:  
But touch her heart, ah that is framd of flynt;  
That fore my haruest in the Grasse beares graine,  
The rockt will weare, washt with a winters raine.

This read ouer, she clapt it into her casket, and brought out  
an old rustie paper, and with that she smyled on her husband,  
and spake to her neighbour sitting by, I will tell you Gossip  
(quoth she) as precisely as my husband sits, hee hath bene a  
wag, but nowe age hath pluckt out all his *Coltes teeth*: for  
when hee and I made loue one to another, hee got a learned  
clarke to write this dittie, subtilly contriued as though it was  
borne betwene *Sheepheards*, but he ment it of me and him  
selfe: Perymedes laught at this, and so the Sonnet was  
read thus:.

*Phillis*



Black Smith.

**P**hillis kept sheepe along the westernne plaines,  
And Coridon did feed his flocks hard by:  
This Sheeheard was the flower of all the swaines,  
That trac'd the downes of fruitfull *Thessalie*,  
And *Phillis* that did far her flocks surpasse,  
In siluer hie was thought a bonny lasse.

A Bonny lasse quaint in her Country tire,  
Was louely *Phillis*, *Coridon* swore so:  
Her locks, her lookes, did set the swaine on fire,  
He left his Lambes, and he began to woe;  
He lookt, he sight, he courted with a kisse;  
No better could the silly swad then this.

He little knew to paint a tale of Loue,  
Sheehearers can fancie, but they cannot saye:  
*Phillis* gan smile, and wily thought to proue,  
What vnconth greefe poore *Coridon* did paie,  
She askt him how his flocks or he did fare,  
Yet pensiue thus his sighes did tell his care.

The Sheeheard blusht when *Phillis* questioned so,  
And swore by *Pan* it was not for his flocke:  
Tis loue faire *Phillis* breederh all this woe:  
My thoughts are trapt within thy louely locks,  
Thine eye hath pearst, thy face hath set on fire.  
Faie *Phillis* kindeh *Coridons* desire.

Can Sheehearers loue, said *Phillis* to the swaine,  
Such saints as *Phillis*, *Coridon* replied:  
Men when they lust, can many fancies faie,  
Said *Phillis*: this not *Coridon* denied:  
That lust had lies, but loue quoth he sayes truth,  
Thy Sheeheard loues, then *Phillis* what ensueth.

### *Perimides the Black Smith.*

*Phillis* was wan, she blusht and hung the head,  
The swaine stept to, and cher'd hir with a kisse,  
With faith, with troth, they stroke the matter dead,  
So vsed they when men thought not amisse:

This Loue begun and ended both in one,  
*Phillis* was loued, and she lik't *Corydon*.

And thus Gentle-men at my frænds request I haue put  
in print those bad Sonnets, which otherwise I had resolved  
to haue made obscure, like the pictures that Phidius drew in  
his prentize-hood, which hee paynted in the night and blotted  
out in the day: if they passe but with silence, howsoeuer  
you smyle at them secretly, I care not if they be so ill that  
you cannot but murmur openly at such trash: I runne to the  
last clause of my frænds letter: *do this: Aut actum est de  
amicitia:* and so I bid you farewell.

FINIS.





